

Russia seeks Mideast debt repayment

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, speaking on Sunday ahead of a major conference on the Middle East and North African economies, said Russia was still looking for a way to recover its debts from the region. "Syria's debt exceeds \$10 billion, and a string of other states also owe (us) big debts," Mr. Kozyrev said. He also said that Russia was looking for a way to recover its debts from the region. "Syria's debt exceeds \$10 billion, and a string of other states also owe (us) big debts," Mr. Kozyrev said. He also said that Russia was looking for a way to recover its debts from the region. "Syria's debt exceeds \$10 billion, and a string of other states also owe (us) big debts," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Peres: E U to finance water projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Jacques Delors, head of the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, had given his consent to financing Jordanian-Israeli water projects. Mr. Peres, who was talking to Jordan Television on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca (see story below), did not make clear whether the European Commission was offering to support all water projects related to the development of the Jordan Valley or only those projects specifically mentioned in the Jordan-Israeli peace agreement. The agreement refers to a desalination plant and dams to let Jordan have its share of waters from the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers. These projects are expected to cost around \$150 million. Two senior Israeli officials held talks with European Commission officials on these projects in Brussels immediately after the signing of the peace treaty in Amman on Oct. 17.

Volume 18 Number 5755

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1994, JUMADA ALAWAL 26, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King urges end to unfounded criticism of peace treaty

Slander and irresponsible behaviour must end, King tells deputies

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that there was some lack of clarity and confusion about the peace treaty with Israel but stressed that this should be no licence to censure and disparage the "historic" achievement Jordan has made.

The King urged an end to the disparaging of the treaty, which he asserted guarantees the Kingdom's full rights in its land and water and was reached after long and difficult negotiations.

In remarks made after listening to the replies of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament to the speech from the Throne with which he opened the second ordinary session of Parliament Oct. 22, the King also urged an end to character assassination and unhealthy and irresponsible rivalry.

Saying that there were many attempts to distort the truth about the history of the Hashemites, the King announced that a number of documents that tell the story of the Kingdom since the start of the Great Arab Revolt in 1916 will soon be published so that the truth will come out.

The King, who does not usually address deputies after they present the reply to the speech from the Throne, stressed that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people even though

their leadership "turned their back to us" and chose to go their own way.

That decision, said the King, freed the Kingdom to look after its own interests. The King was apparently referring to the signing of the Oslo deal by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which did not coordinate its move with Jordan even though it was then still participating in the peace talks under the umbrella of a joint delegation with Jordan.

King Hussein stressed the need to abide by the National Charter, which was approved by representatives of all political shades in the country, urging the minority to respect the views of the majority.

"It seems to me that the (reply of the Lower House of Parliament) reflected uncertainty about what the speech from the Throne included and that could be explained by political pluralism and the conflicting views of each of you at this circumstance and in this era," the King told lawmakers.

In its reply to the speech from the Throne, the House said it values the King's efforts to bring about just and comprehensive peace "which can only be realised through restoring Arab sovereignty over all occupied" Jordanian, Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese lands in accordance with international legitimacy.

The only reference the House made to the treaty was that it will take the decision it deems right on it on the



basis "of our national responsibility."

The King said the peace treaty, which the Kingdom signed with Israel last week, was a balanced accord that "restored Jordanian sovereignty over all Jordanian land," and led to the recovery of the Kingdom's water rights and defined the country's international borders.

"I am personally committed to every letter and every sentence (of the treaty) and to all that it includes," the King said, adding that duty calls for congratulating everybody who was involved in negotiating it.

The King gave a new vote (Continued on page 7)

Upper and Lower Houses pledge full support for King's effort for just peace

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on Sunday expressed their full support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace and his continued endeavours to safeguard the holy places in Jerusalem.

The two houses said in their replies to the speech from the Throne presented at separate audiences at the Royal Court that the rights of Jordan and the Kingdom's sovereignty over its lands and water had been ensured under the peace treaty signed with Israel.

They said the peace treaty opened the door for Jordan to achieve development and progress and deal with its basic issues.

They blessed King Hussein's efforts towards restoring solidarity among Arab states.

Following are major excerpts from the Upper House's (Senate) reply, delivered by its speaker, Ahmad Lawzi:

The Senate is honoured to express to Your Majesty its deepest regards and loyalty to the Throne and voice its full support for the speech from the Throne delivered to Parliament.

Your Majesty's government has concluded a peace treaty with Israel based on Jordan's principled stands and international legitimacy. The treaty ensures the restoration of Jordan's full rights in its land and water and secures the demarcation of the common border, thus stemming any ambitious attempts on the national soil and enhancing the Kingdom's security and offering the Kingdom the chance to embark on sustainable development.

It is hoped that this major achievement would contribute towards the attainment of comprehensive peace on all tracks encompassing the whole region as Your Majesty has always sought. The Senate supports Your Majesty's endeavours for peace, your relentless efforts to reestablish solidarity among the Arab states and your drive to enhance the march of democracy in the Kingdom.

The Senate takes pride in the Kingdom's parliamentary life and the country's political pluralism and the exercise of freedom and respect for human rights and justice. The Senate strongly supports Your Majesty's efforts to ensure these rights under

democracy and within safeguards for security and stability which are basic elements for progress.

The Senate emphasises the fact that the Jordanian Armed Forces, together with the security services, remain the source for the country's pride and should be strengthened by all means to protect the country's gains and ensure progress and prosperity.

The Senate takes pride in Your Majesty's continued care for the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, a role undertaken by the Hashemites over the decades. It is through your continued care and endeavours for these places that they have been safeguarded and protected over the years and you will no doubt be remembered with pride by future generations.

The Senate, after examining the speech from the Throne, expresses appreciation of the government's efforts towards reform programmes in public administration, financial, economic, cultural, educational, social development, agricultural and other sectors.

The Senate pledges to do all it can to ensure cooperation with the government to enable it to provide the best

service to the Jordanian citizens and deal with such chronic issues like unemployment and poverty among other problems.

Following are excerpts from the Lower House's reply to the speech from the Throne, presented by its speaker, Sa'd Hayel Srour:

The Lower House follows with pride your wise steps and share with you the serious responsibilities being shouldered despite the pressures and the obstacles in the path of attaining progress for this country in all fields.

The House reaffirms its role in participating in constitutional steps towards enhancing the elements of justice, democracy and freedom through upgraded laws and pledges not to spare any effort towards achieving this goal.

We reaffirm our support for Your Majesty's efforts to attain a greater renaissance for the whole Arab World and ensure solidarity among Arab states that would prevent further bloodshed and handle inter-Arab disputes with Arab efforts.

The House furthermore hopes that Your Majesty (Continued on page 3)

House refers treaty to committee in brief session

Opposition technicalities voted down

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday referred to its Foreign Affairs Committee the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty after a short debate in which opposition deputies questioned the constitutionality of the treaty and its compliance with the principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace process in Madrid in 1991.

Forty-seven of 73 deputies present voted in favour of referring the treaty, which was presented to the House as a draft law, to the committee after reviewing the reasons for which the government wanted the draft legislation to be addressed with urgency. Forty-three out of 73 lawmakers present voted in favour of addressing the draft with urgency.

The vote came after the majority of the House defeated an opposition motion to reject the treaty and another proposal to refer it to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution on the grounds that the treaty was unconstitutional. No explanation of this claim was presented.

In addition to the 13 Islamic Action Front (IAF) members present at the session, leftist deputies Abdul Karim Al Dughmi (Mafraq), Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Mustafa Shneikat (Sali), Toufan Faisal (Amman), and Khalil Haddadin (Amman) voted in favour of the motion to reject the treaty.

The same deputies, 19 out of 73 present, voted in favour of referring the treaty to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution. Opposition lawmakers attacked the treaty for its alleged unconstitutionality and failure to meet the principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace talks.

Along with others who support the treaty, they also criticised the "unconvincing" reasons cited for requesting

the House to address the draft law with urgency.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour (Amman) accused the government of deviating from its declared pursuit of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, contending that the treaty was neither just nor comprehensive.

Mr. Mansour said the government was "in a race with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) which (by) the signing of the Oslo accord" started the most dangerous penetration of the Arab front.

While the PNA unjustifiably postponed the discussion of the issue of Jerusalem, the treaty asserted religious sovereignty over the holy shrines in the city, "ignoring the Arab and Muslim sovereignty over Jerusalem," said Mr. Mansour, whose party has vowed to fight the treaty with all its power.

Mr. Mansour also attacked the treaty for what he described as ignoring Arab and Muslim land which was occupied while under the sovereignty of the Kingdom and for sending the Kingdom into "a strategic alliance with the enemies of the nation."

The Islamist Deputy was referring to the West Bank, which was occupied in 1967 when it was part of the Kingdom but is now the responsibility of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Leftist deputies Haddadin and Shneikat said that while they believe in peace as "an ambition for all people," they reject the treaty the Kingdom signed with Israel last week for failing to comply with the requirements of international legitimacy.

"We believe (the treaty) violated all the decisions of international legitimacy, starting with (U.N. Security Council) resolutions 194 and 237 as well as resolutions 242 and 338," the two deputies said in a joint statement read by Dr. Shneikat.

They said the treaty constitutes a dangerous turning point that endangers the future of the country, gives

away many of its rights and pushes the Kingdom towards alliance with Israel and away from the Arab countries.

Deputy Mubammad Daoudiyeh (Tafleib), who did not vote in favour of rejecting the treaty, criticised the government for failing to seize the opportunity to explain the reasons for signing it to the people.

He said the government "out of lack of concern rather than respect," hastily drafted the reasons why it wants it to be addressed speedily.

IAF deputies rejected government assertions that the House had approved the government's policy for pursuing peace with Israel through the votes of confidence it gave to successive governments.

The government made the assertion in the one-page statement in which it explained the reasons why the treaty should be looked into with urgency.

In the statement, the government also said the treaty must be debated by Parliament speedily in order "to regain the Jordanian rights in land and water, to protect the country from threats and conspiracy and to ascertain the Kingdom's borders."

It said the treaty realises all Jordanian rights in land, water, security and borders and guarantees the right of refugees and displaced persons.

The opposition deputies rejected these assertions. While the opposition appeared determined to discredit the treaty and slow the process of debating it officially by the legislature, lawmakers who support it focused on ending discussion of the treaty and sending it to the Foreign Affairs committee where the debate would start officially.

President of the committee Abdul Karim Kabariti, a supporter of the treaty, said debate on the treaty should start in earnest by his group which will later present it to the House for debate.

The committee will hold its first meeting today.

Majali: Treaty has no bearing on civil status

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Sunday the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will not affect the status of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin.

They are Jordanians, they carry the Jordanian nationality and they have full rights and duties like all Jordanians, said the prime minister at a meeting with a visiting group of Americans representing the U.S. Committee for Interfaith Dialogue for Middle East Peace.

The West Bank had been made part of the Kingdom of Jordan prior to 1967 as a result of the decision of people on both banks in 1950, and the Jordanians of Palestinian origin will continue to enjoy their Jordanian nationality, he said.

Jordan, said the prime minister, does not seek a dispute with the Palestinians over their sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem, but is holding on to its guardianship of the holy places until the Israelis and the Palestinians reach a final settlement over the issue.

The Kingdom's responsibility for the holy places began before the 1967 war and continued afterwards until today, and it will not abandon this responsibility now because that would be a gain for the Israelis, Dr. Majali added.

Referring to the peace treaty signed last Wednesday, Dr. Majali said that it would not go into effect unless it has been endorsed by Parliament and later ratified by His Majesty King Hussein.

He told the visitors, who represent individuals of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths living in the United States, that the peace treaty with Israel guarantees the return of Jordan's land and water rights and ensures security and stability for both sides.

Dr. Majali said Jordan hopes that the treaty would help reduce the Kingdom's economic burdens which were caused in part by the 1948, 1967 and 1990 migrations into the Kingdom of Palestinians.

Defending Jordan's decision to sign the peace treaty with Israel, Dr. Majali said the accord did not conflict with the progress on the other Arab-Israeli tracks. The treaty, he stressed, is part of an overall settlement without which peace would remain incomplete.

As to Iraq, he said that it also should be included in the Arab-Israeli peace process, but added that he could not speculate when this might develop within the concept of a

comprehensive peace. He repeated Jordan's position that Amman was against the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and said that His Majesty King Hussein had sought to end that crisis peacefully.

Dr. Majali said Jordan refuses to support any Arab party which attempts to meddle in the internal affairs of other Arab countries or launch any aggression against another.

The visitors met earlier with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and discussed the peace treaty and reviewed Jordanian-U.S. relations.

(Continued on page 7)

Motorola-linked firm gets cellular phone deal

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government and the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS) company on Sunday signed a multi-million dollar agreement to install and operate a cellular telephone network in the Kingdom.

The company is required by the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Telecommunications and Post Hashem Al Dabbas and JMTS Chairman Ziad Abu Jaber, to begin the service within one year, but company officials said they expect to be in operation within 10 months.

The JMTS, which has a 15-year licence with a four-year exclusivity, must pay a licence fee of JD 7 million to the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), plus JD 14.84 million for transfer of the current mobile telephones system (car telephones) and around JD 16 million royalty over five years to the state-owned TCC.

The company, which is in partnership with the American company Motorola, is required to cover 95 per cent of the populated areas of the Kingdom within four years.

The service, which will require a JD 70 connection fee

and a base monthly JD 21 subscription fee, will be in operation in the cities of Amman, Zarqa, Salt, and Madaba within one year, Mr. Dabbas was quoted by the Jordan News Agency Petra as saying.

Only the calling party will incur the charges for the calls with the exception of the use of the roaming facilities, which allow a Jordanian subscriber to have his or her calls transferred anywhere in the world, where the GSM system is available and where the JMTS has a roaming agreement. In this case both parties will be charged according to set procedures. The billing will be done in Jordan.

"If I get a call on my cellular in Jordan and I am in the U.K., then I will get the call in the U.K.," said a company official. "In this case both parties will be charged for the service according to set procedures for applicable tariffs."

The company, which expects to have 20,000-23,000 subscribers in five years, will charge 240 fils per minute during peak hours and 180 fils per minute at non-peak hours.

The GSM is seen as essential

(Continued on page 7)

Unprecedented Arab-Israeli economic conference opens

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — An unprecedented Arab-Israeli economic conference opened here Sunday.

More than 1,500 businessmen and 900 politicians from 60 countries are taking part for the first time in a forum to boost economic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

The three-day conference will end with a joint declaration on a "new partnership of business and government dedicated to furthering peace between Arabs and Israelis."

The declaration also outlines the intention to study plans for a Middle East development bank and a regional tourism office.

Besides Arab states and Israel, the United States, Japan and European countries are taking part.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged Arab countries to apply economic reforms and lift the boycott of Israel, in a speech at the opening of the conference.

"The last remnants of the boycott aimed against Israel must be eliminated," Mr. Christopher said. "Now it is time for the other Arab leaders to follow the GCC example."

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the

United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar — last month lifted the indirect boycott of countries that do business with Israel.

But it maintains its ban on direct dealings with Israel. "Indeed it is time for the Arab League to dismantle the boycott entirely," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher told American business leaders before the conference began that Washington would press for new, concrete measures to ease the boycott. A senior U.S. official said Washington hoped to achieve the results at the next meeting of the Arab League.

Mr. Christopher also urged countries to undertake "serious economic reforms... end trade restrictions... lift the heavy hand of government regulation that stifles entrepreneurs" so they can compete in a global economy.

The countries of the region accumulated a huge external debt during the 1970s. The United States also hopes the conference will lead to the establishment of a bank of cooperation and development for the region, a regional tourism office and chamber of commerce, Mr. Christopher noted.

"Even a Middle East at peace cannot be complacent."

(Continued on page 7)

Recognising Creativity: Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday distributes awards to participants in the Children's Creative Production Competition. Organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Abdull Hameed Shoman Foundation, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the competition was introduced in 1988 to encourage children aged 4-15 to express themselves creatively both in writing and art. A total of 2,200 children throughout Jordan participated in the competition which included short stories, poetry, play writing, article writing, drawing, handicrafts and photography, according to a Royal Court spokesperson. This year's theme was "Peace and the Environment." Queen Noor viewed the winning pieces and distributed awards to 184 winning children. The Queen also awarded plaques to representatives of eight schools which had the greatest number of winning students, as well as gifts and certificates to members of the preparatory and judging committees, according to the Royal Court. Queen Noor was received by Mr. Abdul Majeed Shoman, Minister of Education, Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh, Dr. Victoria Riad, the director of UNICEF in Jordan and Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman, the director of the Abdull Hameed Shoman Foundation, the spokesperson said (Photo by George Crystal).



Parliament pledges full support for just peace

(Continued from page 1)

would continue efforts, towards lifting the U.N. embargo on Iraq and end the suffering of its people. The House fully supports Your Majesty's efforts towards enhancing the rule of the law and the establishment of institutions that would help serve as models for an aspired Arab order and hopes that the three branches of government remain independent from one another.

While expressing its pride in the Armed Forces and the security services, the House stresses the need for strengthening of these forces which serve as a shield, protecting the nation.

The Lower House will work towards reducing poverty and unemployment in cooperation with the government. The House hopes that it will be briefed by the government on its steps in this direction so that participation in solving these issues can continue.

The House that the government will take more steps to ensure equality of opportunities for the Jordanian citizens through the application of laws without any discrimination.

Your Majesty's wisdom and leadership have repeatedly helped the Kingdom to find a way out of domestic and regional crises. It is hoped that such wisdom would help the country to become more capable in confronting the problems of the future and its challenges.

The House hopes that financial potentials be steered towards the creation of a stronger economy which can only survive in a stable and secure society.

The House hopes that the government will take measures towards upgrading financial and economic legislations and encourage saving and investments by local foreign capital and back such moves through sound administrative measures to ensure success.

The Lower House seizes this opportunity to tell the people of Palestine that Jordan has not changed and remains faithful to the nation despite the severance of legal and administrative relations

It stresses that Jordan was not turning its back on them but will remain true to its commitments and ready to extend them a helping hand and support.

The Lower House realises the grave responsibility of caring for the holy places in Jerusalem and it is of the view that at this stage Jordan cannot abandon its responsibility lest these holy places be taken over by the Israeli with the West Bank.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and the municipality of Jerusalem which are unable to take responsibility for the holy sites' religious affairs.

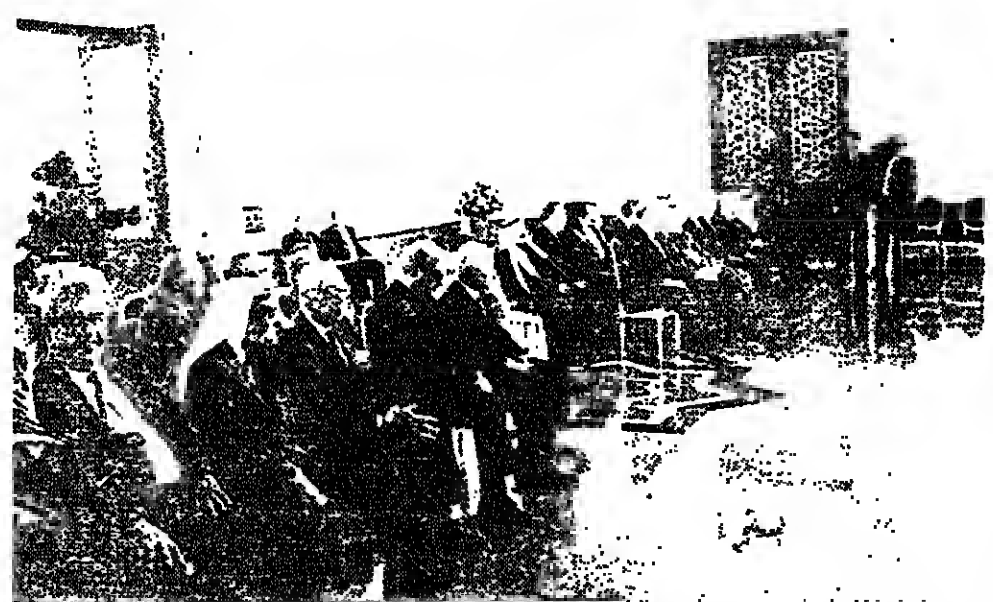
The House remains true to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which call for freedom, political pluralism, moderation, respect for human rights and justice.

The House believes that Islam is the religion of wisdom and reason and that religion can be practised by a

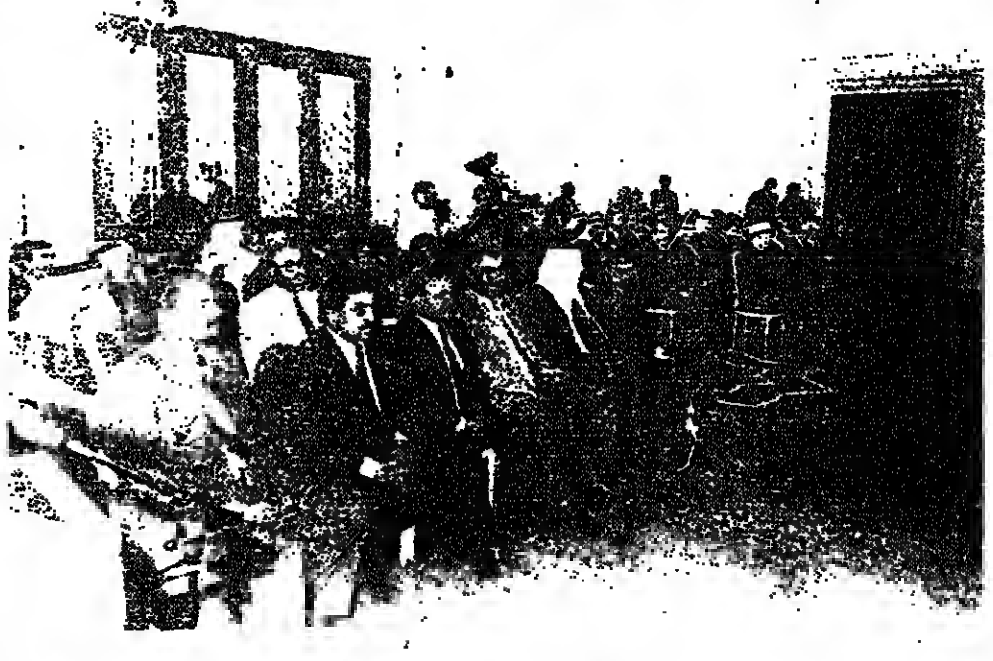
call to hear the teachings of God.

Jordan which enjoys political pluralism can allow the opposition to exercise their activities through democratic norms and means in order to attain their objectives in a sound and wise manner.

Our society rejects all that which could harm the image of Islam or distort its face before the world by individuals, governments or other groups.



Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament at Sunday's audience (Petra photo).



WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* French film entitled "Le Dejeuner Sur L'Herbe" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

* Piano recital by Sultan Al Khatib at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

PLAY

* Play for children (in Arabic) entitled Hakaya Abu Al Ajab ("Strange Stories") at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* Poetry recital by Iraqi poet Abbas Jijan at Abdull Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* A special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Moments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of oil paintings by Iman Khaled and Fawzi Rasoul at Baladna Art Gallery.

* Art exhibition by Olla Beseid and an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tawfik Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

* Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

* The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.

JPA to take measures after 2nd pharmacy employee killed

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 25-year-old pharmacy assistant was shot and killed in Amman Saturday night — the second such incident in a week — prompting the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) to take steps to ensure the safety of its members.

Saturday's victim, identified only as Nabil, was killed at midnight Saturday while on duty alone at Suad Drugstore some 200 metres from the Safeway Stores, according to a police report.

A police official said that investigations into the case were under way, but he declined to give further details.

According to Husamuddin Mismar, president of the JPA, the drug owner said the assailant stole JD 200 from the cash register before fleeing. No drugs were reported missing by the store owner.

Last Monday, Dina Mashini, a pharmacy assistant working at Rawand Pharmacy in the Wadi Sagra area of Amman, was shot and killed while on duty. She was working alone on the morning shift.

Police are investigating both cases. They did not say whether they suspected that the incidents were related.

The JPA said Sunday that it was collaborating with the security services and the Health Ministry in an attempt to stem further attacks on drugstores and their employees. A meeting planned for Sunday evening with Amman police chief Abdullah Hababbeh was intended to discuss what could be done in this direction.

Mr. Mismar said that the JPA board plans to ask the Public Security Department (PSD) to tighten security around drugstores, particularly those located in outlying areas, reduce the number of drugstores which open at night and announce the name of the criminals once they are captured.

He said the JPA board also plans to request the Health Ministry to arrange for drugs that are being used for drug abusers to be kept only in pharmacies attached to hospitals and that an announcement be made to this effect.

Mr. Mismar said that the JPA would submit these requests at meetings Sunday evening with the police chief and Monday with the Health Ministry.

He would not speculate about the motives of the killings because only cash was reported stolen, but said he had learnt from Amman Police Department that investigations were making progress.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRESS: Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas (second right) Sunday addresses a meeting organised in cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Dr. Dabbas said that in the new era of peace, the entire Middle East region is expected to witness scientific and technological progress, and Jordan is determined to be in the lead in the telecommunications sector and create the necessary infrastructure for such progress. He said Jordan is expanding its national programme in telecommunications and is developing its local network, transforming it into a fully integrated digital network. The minister thanked the



ITU for providing Jordan and other Arab states with experts to

help expand their respective electronic telephone networks. Taking part in

the five-day seminar are delegates from 12 Arab countries (Petra photo)

ESCWA, UNIDO hold workshop on women participating in manufacturing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A regional two-day workshop on the "Participation of Women in Manufacturing: Patterns, Determinants and Future Trends" opened Sunday at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The workshop is jointly organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The workshop aims to validate a regional typology study on women's participation in economic and industrial development undertaken by UNIDO in preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing. The draft report of the typology study will be discussed during the workshop, after which workshop participants will formulate strategies and mea-

sures to address the issues and challenges which emerge from the discussions.

Participating in the workshop are regional experts in the fields of economic and industrial development, as well as observers from various Jordanian governmental and non-governmental bodies and from U.N. agencies.

At the opening session, opening speeches were given by Dr. Thoraya Obaid, ESCWA's deputy executive secretary, and by Marie-Anne Martin, acting chief of the Integration of Women into Industrial Development Unit.

Meanwhile, ESCWA and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) are organising a three-day re-

gional workshop to address issues of agricultural risk management in the Western Asia and North Africa (WANA) region.

Entitled "Agricultural Risk Management," the workshop will be held at the Marriott Hotel from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. Participants include experts and policy-makers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia.

The workshop aims to provide a forum for experts and policy-makers to discuss and propose future strategies to incorporate risk in traditional planning and policy formulation processes. Specifically, participants will characterise risk and uncertainty in the diverse agricultural systems of WANA; identify potential applications' needs and data

requirements; and establish and/or continue communication among WANA scientists interested in risk analysis and risk management.

In addition, the following issues will be taken up in greater detail during the workshop, in view of the lack of research on risk analysis in the national programmes within WANA:

- Incorporating weather variability into agricultural production.
- Incorporating risk into supply response analysis of field crops.
- Irrigation decision and risk analysis.
- Accounting for risk in enterprise budgets.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of prevailing agricultural policies to reduce risk.
- Crop insurance.



UKRAINIAN-JORDANIAN MANUFACTURING: Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi (left foreground) Sunday inaugurates Jordanian-Ukrainian refrigerator manufacturing plant at the Sahab Industrial City. According to Fawzi Khalil, commercial manager of the joint firm which owns the plant, the establishment is designed to produce 30,000 refrigerators annually to be marketed in Jordan and some Arab states. The \$2 million firm, which started trial production in

September, will provide jobs for 70 Jordanian engineers and technicians, in addition to a small number of Ukrainian experts who will gradually be replaced by Jordanians, said Mr. Khalil in a statement at the inauguration ceremony. He said that the plant will manufacture a variety of models and sizes of refrigerators. According to Mr. Khalil, the Ukrainian firm, Nord, the partner in the firm, has 30 years experience in manufacturing refrigerators and has been exporting its major home appliances to European markets (Petra photo)

European Commission is off to shaky start

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Jacques Santer's incoming European Commission seems headed for a shaky new start after a carve-up of responsibilities made one of its most senior figures, Sir Leon Brittan, hint that he might quit.

An all-day meeting Saturday in Mr. Santer's native Luxembourg ended with agreement on who among the enlarged 21-member European Union (EU) executive should do what when it takes office in January.

But Santer, who is replacing outgoing veteran Commission President Jacques Delors of France, created a furore by stripping Mr. Brittan, the British government's senior commissioner, of his most prized job, that of bringing Eastern Europe into the union.

Under the agreed portfolios, Sir Leon would retain responsibility for world trade and relations with industrialised countries and the key economies of Asia. But responsibility for Eastern Europe, the key policy issue facing the expanding EU, was given to Dutchman Hans Van Den Broek.

Sir Leon, known for his

trade negotiations on behalf of the EU, quickly announced he was pondering his future in Brussels.

"I am considering the position that has arisen... I don't think I have anything to add at the moment," he told reporters.

EU sources said Sir Leon, who had offered to give up all his other responsibilities to retain the Eastern Europe role, was expected to decide this week if he should stay on.

Apart from the head-on clash with Sir Leon, Mr. Santer's first big test since being chosen in July by EU member states as president pleased most of his colleagues and member states.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy of France was put in charge of economic and monetary affairs, including the EU's plans for a single currency.

His colleague, former Socialist Prime Minister Edith Cresson, was given responsibility for research and industrial competitiveness.

The relative importance of the two portfolios was expected to assuage some French concern that Paris would lose influence on the commission in January when Monday's meeting, to be held in Luxembourg, is aimed at finding out what can be done now to start bringing the East European states into the bloc. The EU currently has 12 members but plans, if all goes well in referendums in Sweden and Norway next month, to expand to 16 next year. Austrian and Finnish voters have already accepted the membership question.

The importance of the Eastern Europe issue to the EU was underlined Saturday by a row over who would be responsible for eastern enlargement on a new European Commission. The EU's executive body, which takes office in January.

In the event, the job went to Dutchman Hans Van Den Broek. The EU has already agreed to the concept of membership for the East Europeans and decided at a foreign ministers meeting in Bansk, Germany, in September to set up regular meetings with them. Monday's meeting will be the highest level so far.

One senior EU diplomat, calling the session "a big first," emphasised that it had been designed for "real political dialogue" in contrast with the rather formal meetings held previously at lower levels.

The areas under discussion range from the broad, such as views on the former Yugoslavia, to the narrow, including how EU aid programmes work.

Germany, the current holder of the EU's six-month rotating presidency, is pulling out all the stops to get the eastern enlargement ball rolling between now and the end of this year.

With one eye on the French and Spanish EU presidencies that follow it, Bonn wants to use its EU summit in the western German city of Essen on Dec. 9 and 10 to show that the process of East European integration is inevitable, another diplomat said.

Delors leaves the presidency he has held for 10 years.

Germany's Martin Bangemann was given the new post for which he had lobbied, keeping industrial policy and gaining information technology and telecommunications.

Mario Monti, a respected Italian economist and head of Milan's Bocconi Business School, was put in charge of both the EU's single market and its tax-harmonisation policy.

Manuel Marin of Spain retained responsibility for relations with Latin America and parts of Asia and was put in charge of Mediterranean policy.

With France, Spain has been arguing there should be more balance in the EU's relations with non-member Mediterranean countries given the overwhelming focus on Eastern Europe.

Mr. Santer also handed out jobs to four commission nominees from countries due to join the union on Jan. 1.

Austria's Franz Fischler was given the important agriculture portfolio which absorbs a huge bite of the EU's annual budget and Finland's Erkki Liikanen was

given responsibility for the budget and for personnel.

Anita Gradin of Sweden got immigration and judicial affairs and Thorvald Stoltenberg, a Norwegian career diplomat who has been United Nations negotiator in former Yugoslavia, was put in charge of fisheries. Swedes vote in a referendum on membership on Nov. 13 and Norwegians in a similar poll on Nov. 28.

The British government late Saturday faulted Mr. Santer for his distribution of portfolios after it was announced that Sir Leon would no longer be responsible for Eastern Europe.

"We understand that Mr. Santer has an impossible task, a government spokesman said.

"But we think he has not made the best use of the talent available. We also understand Sir Leon's disappointment that his experience in Eastern Europe has not been used, but it is vitally important that the trade portfolio remain in capable hands, which of course it has."

The head of the Socialist group in the European Union parliament said Sunday Sir

Leon is behaving like a "spoilt child" in threatening to resign over being stripped of the eastern Europe portfolio.

"He is behaving like a spoilt child," Labour Party MP Pauline Green said in a communiqué, in reacting to Sir Leon's threat to resign Saturday following a decision by Mr. Santer to strip him of the Eastern Europe portfolio.

"Sir Leon Brittan is clearly motivated by personal greed and ambition," Ms. Green said. "He is not prepared to be a team player."

"This is absolutely typical of the way the British Tories refuse to be part of the team in Europe," she said. "It is time John Major said to Sir Leon 'stop playing games, this is the British influence that is at stake, accept the portfolio and get on with your work.'"

Socialists have the largest number of seats (198) in the European Parliament, and British Labour Party MPs are the most numerous among them.

The European Parliament is to swear in the new 21-member commission in January.



MISS BANGLADESH: Miss Bangladesh, Anika Taber (right) poses with Miss Romania, Loana Voicu at Sun City, South Africa, before the Miss World Pageant on Nov. 19. Ms. Taber, a 21-year-old college student, is set to become Bangladesh's first contestant in the world beauty pageant, Bangladesh newspapers said (AFP photo)

Hosokawa disbands to unite opposition

TOKYO (R) — The maverick party that two years ago set off Japan's biggest political upheaval since World War II committed ritual suicide Sunday by disbanding in the interests of opposition unity.

The Japan New Party (JNP) used its first and final national convention since its May 1992 founding to formalise plans to merge into a large political force that leaders hope will complete the overhaul of Japan's political order.

"We didn't form the JNP to start a 50 or 100-year dynasty, but to be a child of the era and a limited, project-oriented party," its leader, former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, told the Tokyo gathering.

"The JNP is not disappearing, it's moving forward," Mr. Hosokawa said. The party was "constructively destructing" in the next stage of a political realignment process that began last year when the JNP and its allies ended the 38-year rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Ten parties of the non-Communist opposition, including the JNP, have set Dec. 10 as the day they form a new party to take on the ruling coalition of the LDP, the Socialist Party of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and the New Party Sakigake.

Hosokawa accused the ruling coalition of "lacking the courage to undertake thorough reforms" and returning

Japanese politics to corrupt years of the past.

Ironically, Mr. Hosokawa's JNP, which enjoyed a meteoric rise by championing neglected urban voters and consumers, is a victim of its success in destroying Japan's political order.

Mr. Hosokawa's crowning achievement during his eight months as prime minister of a wobbly eight-party coalition was the passage of laws to completely overhaul the electoral system to introduce more competition and curb endemic corruption.

Despite approval ratings of 80 per cent, Mr. Hosokawa resigned last April over claims of illegal personal financial dealings.

His reforms replace a complicated multi-seat constituency system, in which special-interest-backed candidates with just over 10 per cent of the vote could win parliamentary seats, with a highly competitive first-past-the-post system.

In the new winner-take-all contests, small parties like the JNP have no choice but to merge with larger groups. Bigger parties also receive more sizeable public campaign funding.

The opposition alliance has been slow to get off the ground, hampered by personal rivalries among its three former prime ministers and differences between support groups ranging from labour unions to consumers to the religious right.

S. Korean pedals 229 days to visit brother

GENEVA (AFP) — A 28-year-old South Korean who pedalled 229 days through eight countries to visit his brother in Switzerland was given a hero's welcome upon his arrival in the southern town of Bluche at the weekend. Bosik Lee said he had wanted to visit his brother for three years. After two years of training, he embarked on his bicycle journey in Seoul eight months ago. He travelled through China, Tibet, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece before his bike was stolen in Athens. He purchased another bicycle, boarded a boat to Italy, and continued his trek. He finally got to see his brother Saturday and was taking a few days' rest before heading home via the United States and Australia — by bike.

Nigeria relaunches war on garbage

LAGOS (AFP) — The Nigerian military government relaunches a nationwide war on garbage, which has piled up along major roads, and arrested dozens of people who refused to take part in a clean-up. In Lagos, at least 25 people arrested during a three-hour cleaning exercise were either fined or given prison terms, the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported here. Similar punishment was meted out to defaulters in other parts of the country, the agency said. Mountains of refuse block some of the nation's major roads and drains, in some cases making human and vehicular traffic impossible. The government has promised to impose existing laws, calling for imprisonment or fines, on those who breach environmental laws. The aim of the clean-up campaign, promoted through the media, is to ensure that plagues and epidemic diseases currently afflicting some African countries do not get to Nigeria, said information Minister Jerry Gana. The campaign was originally launched in 1984 under Muhammadu Buhari but was abandoned shortly after his regime was ousted the following year by general Ibrahim Babangida.

Debutantes in French dressing resurface

PARIS (R) — France's budding high-society queens staged a defiant comeback at the weekend, stepping out at the first debutante ball for decades. Thirty-one young women from wealthy families put on a fashion show Saturday night, showing off haute couture of the likes of Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent, before launching into the first waltz with their cavaliers. In a capital bereft of debutante balls for years, the event at the gilded Hotel de Crillon resurrected the pomp of the Ancien Regime, the political and social system of France before the 1789 revolution. One of its last monarchs, Louis XVI, was beheaded nearby on the Place de la Concorde. Changing times and the 1968 student-led upheaval, when the "debs" died out, left their mark on the Paris revival. In a break with a tradition born across the channel in the 18th century under King George III, many of the sophisticates aged from 16 to 21 were not the offspring of aristocrats. "Debs" included the daughters of magnates like Bernard Arnault, chairman of the world's leading luxury goods maker LVMH (of Moët champagne and Dior fame), and of former Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. Foreigners included the daughters of Britain's Viscount Astor and Belgian financier Albert Frere. Nor were there any crowned heads for them to curtsy to. "These girls are from great families. They may not be noble but why shouldn't they have a chance to come out in this way?" said Jacques Mouchier, president of the French Stylists' Federation. The outfits they modelled, chiefly ball and cocktail dresses, were in everything but the white dictated by tradition. In another break with established canon, the waltzes were soon overpowered by booming disco-music. And few debs saw the balls as the chance to meet the man of their lives. "There is no recipe for finding a prince charming," said 17-year-old Spaniard Alejandra Salinas, who is studying Russian in Paris.

EU opens door for East Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — Eastern Europe's integration with the West gears up a notch Monday when foreign ministers from six former Communist states sit down with their European Union counterparts to discuss EU membership.

Spurred by Germany's desire to see stability in its eastern neighbours, the EU decided to devote most of a regular meeting of its foreign ministers to the visitors from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.

All six countries deeply wish to join Western institutions, including the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Western European Union, the EU's nascent defence arm.

"We want full membership before the end of the century... to be able to respond to the challenges of the 21st century," Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs told reporters during a trip to Brussels on Oct. 19.

Monday's meeting, to be held in Luxembourg, is aimed at finding out what can be done now to start bringing the East European states into the bloc. The EU currently has 12 members but plans, if all goes well in referendums in Sweden and Norway next month, to expand to 16 next year. Austrian and Finnish voters have already accepted the membership question.

The importance of the Eastern Europe issue to the EU was underlined Saturday by a row over who would be responsible for eastern enlargement on a new European Commission. The EU's executive body, which takes office in January.

In the event, the job went to Dutchman Hans Van Den Broek. The EU has already agreed to the concept of membership for the East Europeans and decided at a foreign ministers meeting in Bansk, Germany, in September to set up regular meetings with them. Monday's meeting will be the highest level so far.

One senior EU diplomat, calling the session "a big first," emphasised that it had been designed for "real political dialogue" in contrast with the rather formal meetings held previously at lower levels.

The areas under discussion range from the broad, such as views on the former Yugoslavia, to the narrow, including how EU aid programmes work.

Germany, the current holder of the EU's six-month rotating presidency, is pulling out all the stops to get the eastern enlargement ball rolling between now and the end of this year.

With one eye on the French and Spanish EU presidencies that follow it, Bonn wants to use its EU summit in the western German city of Essen on Dec. 9 and 10 to show that the process of East European integration is inevitable, another diplomat said.

At least 26 killed in 2 Siberian air crashes

MOSCOW (R) — At least 26 people were killed in two separate air crashes in remote parts of Siberia over the weekend, reviving concern about the safety record and airworthiness of Russia's ageing fleet of aircraft.

The Russian Ministry for Emergencies said Sunday 21 people died when a four-engine Antonov AN-12 crashed north of Irkutsk and five people were killed when a single-engine Antonov AN-2 crash-landed in the far eastern region of Yakutia.

The crashes, which both happened Saturday, were the fifth and sixth in the region in what is rapidly becoming a very black year for the country's fledgling airlines.

A total of 287 people have died in the accidents.

The two planes, obsolete propeller-driven aircraft first brought into service in the years after World War II, belonged to two of the more than 300 smaller airlines set up since the break-up of the former Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot in 1992.

Many of the new airlines are too small to be viable and lack the means to maintain their often ageing aircraft.

To make matters worse, the intense pressure to keep planes working for as long as possible makes it tempting to ignore the rule-book and cram aboard as large a payload as possible.

A spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry said only 10 people were registered as being on board the AN-12 cargo plane, which crashed on approach to the airport at Ust-Ilimsk, 620 kilometres north of the Siberian city of Irkutsk.

The four-propeller aircraft was two kilometres from the runway when it veered off course and started to disintegrate in mid-air. Within seconds it caught fire and smashed into a hill.

Russian News Agency (RIA), in an unconfirmed report from Ust-Ilimsk, quoted an investigator as saying pilot error could have been to blame. Investigators had found all four of the plane's "black box" flight recorders, RIA said.

The plane was carrying 12 tonnes of cargo, including four cars, and was on its way from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on the Far Eastern island of Sakhalin to Yermolino in the Kaluga region near Moscow, the agency added.

The AN-12, once the workhorse of the armed forces, has been in service since 1957.

The International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) warned its members in April not to fly in or over the former Soviet Union, citing "overloaded airplanes, lack of cockpit discipline, pilot error, ageing aircraft."

A month earlier an Aeroflot Airbus A-310 crashed into a wooded hillside near Novokuznetsk with the pilot's son at the joystick, killing 70 people.

In the second accident Saturday, four adults and a child died when the engine of their AN-2 plane caught fire shortly after take-off.

The plane turned back to the town of Bagatui, 680-kilometre north of Yakutsk, but crash-landed and burned. The nine survivors were taken to hospital.

Ghali urges Armenia to pull troops out of Azerbaijani territory

BAKU (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali called on Armenia Sunday to withdraw its troops from Azerbaijani territory while hinting at possible United Nations involvement in a peacekeeping plan to separate the warring republics.

At the start of a three-nation tour to the Transcaucasus, Dr. Ghali said in an open meeting with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov in the capital Baku, he "will reiterate the United Nations' position which is: The territorial integrity of the member states and the immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territory."

On his first visit to Azerbaijan since it gained independence three years ago, Dr. Ghali was given a tough introduction to the results of the republic's six-year war with neighbouring Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, when he visited the Allee Shakhidov war cemetery, located on a hill above Baku overlooking the Caspian Sea.

"I've lost my son, I don't want any more fighting — I want peace," an Azeri woman dressed in black, standing next to her son's gravestone, tearfully told the

U.N. secretary general. A ceasefire brokered by Russia has held for six months in Karabakh, an enclave situated inside Azerbaijan but populated by an ethnic Armenian majority, which has raised hopes of a settlement to the conflict.

A Russian proposal to send its own peacekeeping troops to Karabakh has been consistently ruled out by Azerbaijan which fears a Russian force would merely cement the republic's territorial losses.

Azerbaijan's pressure on the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to deploy an "international" peacekeeping force to separate the warring sides in Karabakh, appears to have paid off after the CSCE proposed a 1,600-2,000 strong peacekeeping force earlier this month — the first in the CSCE's short history.

Dr. Ghali said the CSCE's lack of peacekeeping experience should "not be an obstacle to a presence of the CSCE to solve the situation (in Karabakh)."

The secretary general affirmed the United Nations would assist the CSCE-sponsored peace plan and hinted at a possible U.N. role in the

proposed peacekeeping operation, saying the United Nations would "participate in a real presence on the ground."

U.N. representative to Azerbaijan Mahmoud Al Said said the United Nations would provide "technical help" for any CSCE peacekeeping effort but it was not yet clear what form this would take.

But standing in the way of a peace agreement is Armenia's continued refusal to evacuate the strategically vital Lachin "corridor" and the town of Shushi.

Lachin forms a vital land link between Armenia and the disputed territory while Shushi, situated above the Karabakh capital of Stepanakert, was used to rain shells and rockets on the latter's Armenian inhabitants until it was captured by Armenian forces in 1992.

Foreign Minister Gasanov urged Dr. Ghali to raise the issue of Lachin and Shushi with the Armenian government when he travels to Yerevan next week.

An Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "...Without Lachin or Shushi, it (a peace agreement) will not be possible."

Zambia's Kaunda seeks political comeback

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia's former President Kenneth Kaunda, one of the stalwarts of Africa's anti-colonial drive, has announced his return to politics three years after being driven from power in a resounding election defeat.

"I have come back. I am back. There is a crisis in Zambia. This country can break into pieces unless we do something about it," Kaunda told a Lusaka political rally Saturday.

"I find I cannot stand by and watch, it is incumbent upon me to make my humble contribution. That is why I have accepted the call to come back," said Mr. Kaunda, who is 70.

His announcement came two days before the Monday anniversary of his overwhelming defeat by current President Frederick Chiluba and his Movement for Multi-

party Democracy (MMD). Winning the first multi-party elections in Zambia in two decades, Mr. Chiluba inherited a country on the economic ropes, dependent on goodwill and economic hand-outs for survival.

Its nine million people staggered under the world's highest per capita foreign debt.

Mr. Chiluba's programme to revive the shattered economy is backed by the International Monetary Fund and Western donors but has caused considerable hardship for ordinary Zambians.

He has cut food subsidies to reduce government's budget deficit, and is working on reducing government's 80 per cent hold on the economy and increasing private-sector participation to boost production and create jobs.

Mr. Kaunda, who ruled Zambia from independence

from Britain in 1964 and retired from politics in 1992 after his electoral defeat the previous year, has held rallies around the country in recent weeks to assess his support.

But the United National Independence Party (UNIP) he founded in 1958 has said he would have to submit to a party vote to regain its leadership. Under Zambia's current constitution an independent candidate cannot run for the state presidency.

The next elections must be held by October 1996. The MMD currently holds an overwhelming 150 seats in the national assembly and UNIP 25.

Many political observers say Mr. Kaunda, who was praised for his graceful acceptance of defeat in 1991, has little to offer Zambia politically or economically by seeking office again.

Charles never said he didn't love Diana — author

LONDON (R) — Britain's future king, Prince Charles, never said he did not love his estranged wife Princess Diana, royal biographer Dimbleby said Sunday.

In the latest episode of the country's long-running palace soap opera, he said this assertion was pure distortion by tabloid newspapers.

Prince Charles was widely quoted as saying he was pressured into a loveless, failed marriage by bullying father Prince Philip, while still infatuated with old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles, an army officer's wife.

Mr. Dimbleby's forthcoming book says Prince Charles and Camilla had three separate affairs, two before he married and the third when he felt his marriage had broken down permanently.

Princess Diana was reportedly crushed to learn that he never loved her at the time of their fairytale wedding. The beautiful aristocrat and long-time royal bachelor had seemed a perfect match.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana had two sons but the marriage foundered and they formally separated in December 1992, but lawyers for both have denied they plan to divorce next year.

His reported remark fuelled criticism in Britain that the future King Charles III was unsuited to be monarch in succession to his mother Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. Dimbleby's defence of Prince Charles apparently placed him at odds with the Sunday Times, serialising excerpts of his book which caused a sensation in Britain. The bombshell biography

has catapulted the 1,000-year-old monarchy into the worst crisis in decades.

Newspapers say the royal family has become a laughing stock and there are repeated calls for a head of state in a Republican system. A new London theatre comedy shows the monarchy toppled and banished to a crime-ridden, public housing estate.

Two weeks ago, publishing the first extract, the paper banner-headlined its front-page: "Charles: My agony after being forced into a loveless marriage — authorised biography reveals ultimatum from Prince Philip."

Mr. Dimbleby, whose book is published next week, spent two years following and interviewing the prince, 46 on Nov. 14.

"It is not in the book. It was not in the extracts. So far as I know he's never said it. I never attributed that to him. I have never heard anyone say that of him. It was not inferred in the book in any way," Mr. Dimbleby told BBC Television.

The latest instalment quotes Prince Charles as saying singer Barbra Streisand was "devastatingly attractive with great sex appeal" and that he admired actress Joan Collins's cleavage.

Prince Charles said he found hunting as an "exciting, challenging, extraordinary thrill" and said the vast royal family would have to be scaled down if it was to retain public support.

Mr. Dimbleby said: "I have been astonished by some of the interpretation of what I have written in the

book and what was published in the Sunday Times."

Mr. Dimbleby said the allegations that Prince Philip bullied his son into marrying Princess Diana, now 33, had also been distorted.

"What he said was 'make up your mind'," Mr. Dimbleby said.

"Another major lie that has been picked up not only I have to say, in tabloid press and therefore spread widely but even allegedly serious commentators in allegedly serious papers have used this stuff. Just picked it up as if it were the truth, to then comment adversely on him."

Mr. Dimbleby said it was just this sort of coverage that had convinced Prince Charles to make the unprecedented step of spending his life to the public.

"For many years his life was covered by particular tabloid newspapers on the basis of innuendo, concoction, assumption, distortion and frequently downright lies," Mr. Dimbleby said.

"I think that the decision he made was a gamble. But if he had stayed silent forever, he was not just being slowly assassinated by the papers... he was being killed off."

Mr. Dimbleby said Prince Charles was being unfairly pilloried by British and foreign newspapers.

"He is a decent, honourable man that I think personally would make a very good king," he said.

The Sunday Times on Oct. 16, quoting the prince as saying "how could I have got it all so wrong?", said the book "makes clear he was

never in love with Diana and felt he had to propose after he came under pressure from his father."

Meanwhile, Prince Charles begins a five-day visit to Los Angeles Monday, during which he will visit projects set up to regenerate deprived inner-city areas in the wake of the 1992 race riots.

The heir to the British throne, who was invited by the mayor of Los Angeles and the governor of California, will concentrate on South Central Los Angeles, the scene of the worst rioting.

He will visit a special centre attempting to get youngsters from "at risk" zones back into the mainstream educational system, as well as a training centre for deprived youths to help find work in the car industry, and a farm school.

The Prince of Wales has long shown a keen interest in social problems in urban zones.

His foundation, the Prince of Wales Trust, regroups associations which give out grants, help in job-finding, support those in housing need and engage in other charitable works. The trust has an annual budget of more than £32 million (\$50 million), a staff of 470 and nearly 9,000 unpaid volunteers.

In Los Angeles the prince will be a special guest at a cultural festival, attending the premiere of British film director Kenneth Branagh's latest film, *Frankenstein*.

The festival, United Kingdom-Los Angeles, opened on Sept. 7 and closes on Nov. 14.



French U.N. peacekeepers patrol the demilitarised zone (DMZ) on Mount Igman, south of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Mozambique's Chissano wins 1st poll count

MAPUTO (R) — Election officials waded through piles of ballots Sunday following Mozambique's first multi-party polls, with President Joaquim Chissano winning overwhelmingly the first result from a pro-government area.

The independent National Electoral Commission (CNE) estimated that 90 per cent of 6.4 million voters in the southern African nation of 16 million people cast ballots.

International observers called it a great success and a lesson in democracy for Africa after fears that 75 per cent illiteracy, logistical problems and a short-lived boycott by the main opposition RENAMO movement might sow chaos.

"The people of Mozambique provided us a lesson in democracy... this process was a great sign for the rest of Africa," said Italian churchman Don Mateo Zuppi.

Mr. Zuppi helped negotiate 1992 peace accords that ended 16 years of civil war between Afonso Dhlakama's RENAMO and Mr. Chissano's FRELIMO.

Counting began after polls in the three-day presidential and parliamentary elections closed at 6 p.m. Saturday. The first result to reach Reuters came from Massaca, a village in pro-government Boane district 30 kilometres west of Maputo, where Mr. Chissano and FRELIMO won resoundingly.

Under lamp light, officials counted 518 votes, representing a 91 per cent turnout at polling station 6391. Mr. Chissano took 510 votes, or 82.5 per cent, against 17 for Mr. Dhlakama and 21 split among other 10 presidential candidates.

In the race for the 250-seat National Assembly, FRELIMO took 421 votes while the Democratic Union Coalition

of three small opposition parties placed second with 27 votes. RENAMO got 17.

Before the elections opened Thursday, political analysts had predicted victory for Mr. Chissano in the presidential race, while RENAMO was expected to give FRELIMO a run for its money in the parliamentary stakes.

Manuel Frank, spokesman for the Electoral Commission, said that due to the laborious process of checking ballots in a country with a shattered infrastructure, complete results might not be known for two weeks.

British politician Sir David Steel, observing the elections as part of a European Parliament delegation, said the virtual lack of incidents was remarkable for a country emerging from civil war. "It went fantastically," he told reporters.

Sinn Fein predicts early talks with U.K.

LONDON (Agencies) — Talks between Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, and the British government could start in two or three weeks' time, a senior Sinn Fein official said Saturday.

"I think discussions will take place between Sinn Fein and representatives of the British government over the course of the next two to three weeks. I think that is now inevitable," Martin McGuinness, number two in Sinn Fein, told Britain's GMTV.

"Then we can move to a position where the British government and the Dublin government can bring about all-party talks for all the parties to be involved in the search for the final solution," he added.

British Prime Minister John Major has said he accepts an IRA ceasefire declared at the end of August as permanent and that government officials can now, as promised, include Sinn Fein in talks on the future of the province.

But British officials have always spoken of a three-month waiting period.

"What is needed now urgently is that we move forward to dialogue, to round-table negotiations with all the parties at the heart of this conflict involved in a search for a solution for lasting peace in Ireland," Mr. McGuinness said.

"I expect this will happen very soon. It would happen an awful lot quicker if the British government had a will to move the situation forward

much quicker than it has done until now."

Armed Protestant extremists have declared their own ceasefire, bringing the strongest hopes of peace to the province since the current round of "the troubles" started 25 years ago.

But the British weekly newspaper, the Observer, said on Sunday the IRA was maintaining a high state of readiness.

Quoting authoritative police sources in Northern Ireland and anti-terrorist squad sources, the paper said IRA teams were gathering information on potential targets and then mounting dummy attacks.

"Intelligence and surveillance reports confirmed that the IRA's active service units remained in a 'high state of readiness'," the paper added.

A Northern Ireland delegation linked to Protestant paramilitary groups returned to Belfast Saturday after a one-week visit to the U.S. marked by a historic handshake with Irish President Mary Robinson in New York.

Activists for non-violence turned out in a protest at the airport to meet the delegation, which included men who had served prison time for murder and terrorist acts.

They were marking their opposition to continued punishments inflicted by the paramilitary groups on members of their own community despite the current ceasefire declared by both Catholic and Protestant leaders in Northern Ireland.

Progressive Unionist Party leader Gary McMichael said that the U.S. visit had been "very beneficial" and provided the Protestant cause with "more than understanding."

The trip made it more difficult for "Sinn Fein (to) dominate the political agenda," he said.

The delegation met Ms. Robinson, who is still in the U.S., in New York Friday for a courteous handshake, hailed as "historic" by the London and Dublin press. To Northern Irish Protestants, strictly opposed to a unified Ireland, Ms. Robinson is seen as a "foreign" leader. "I have spoken about the shift of consciousness in Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland," Mrs. Robinson said on RTE Irish Radio. "It has symbolic significance in that context: It is the shift of consciousness."

An IRA bomb abandoned prior to Republican movement's Sept. 1 ceasefire, was discovered and defused Saturday by the British army and police, security services said.

The bomb comprised a detonator and 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds) of Semtex, an extremely powerful explosive only the Irish Republican Army possessed in Northern Ireland.

It was discovered by workers in a sports bag abandoned in a sewer in Duggan, central Northern Ireland.

Several streets were evacuated for more than three hours while the bomb was defused.

Bloodstained campaign resumes after Sri Lankan opposition funeral

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's political parties resumed their bloodstained presidential campaign Sunday after a public funeral for assassinated opposition candidate Gamini Disanayake led to increased tension.

The ruling People's Alliance (PA) of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga said they were recommending public rallies after a one-week break following Monday's bombing of Mr. Disanayake's rally, in which 56 others were also killed.

"We are starting our programme today because all funerals have now been concluded," a PA spokesman said, adding that Mrs. Kumaratunga, the government candidate for the presidency, was due to address a few public rallies.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's government granted Mr. Disanayake a public funeral Saturday but boycotted the cremation, saying they were unable to attend due to the "atmosphere that prevailed."

Angry mourners jeered after Home Minister Amarasiri

Dodangoda and Parliamentary Speaker K.B. Ratnayake failed to turn up to deliver their scheduled orations on behalf of Mrs. Kumaratunga.

Mr. Disanayake's widow, Srma, and Mrs. Kumaratunga took out full-page advertisements in national weeklies Sunday asking voters to support them at the presidential ballot.

"Sharing the vision. Fulfilling the promise," Mrs. Disanayake declared while Mrs. Kumaratunga said: "We still need to press on and work for peace, for hope, for our children for a life free of killings and acts of terror."

At the funeral, angry mourners chanted slogans accusing Mrs. Kumaratunga of responsibility in Mr. Disanayake's death. The opposition United National Party (UNP) has said Tamil Tiger guerrillas carried out the suicide bombing.

Mrs. Kumaratunga has refused to accept that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), with whom she opened a peace dialogue in August, was behind the assassination, charging that

the killing could be a UNP inside job.

Security forces attacked suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least nine rebels over the weekend, the military said here Sunday.

Political analysts believe that the bombing of Mr. Disanayake will restrict public campaigning by Sri Lankan politicians, who have been vulnerable to assassinations in the past six years.

A spokesman for Mrs. Disanayake said she will not attend public meetings but will use the electronic and print media to campaign. But she was expected to address a press conference here Monday.

Mrs. Disanayake was made the UNP presidential nominee following a compromise. Political analysts doubt that Mrs. Disanayake will be able to translate a sympathy wave into the half a million votes she needs to defeat the PA of Mrs. Kumaratunga, who herself is a widow.

Bosnia Serbs defy U.N., shell Muslim towns

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb gunners fighting to stem an offensive by Muslim-led Bosnian government troops pounded two Muslim towns in the Bihac pocket of north-western Bosnia Sunday with artillery fire.

U.N. peacekeepers reported heavy fighting around Serb-held Bosanska Krupa on the edge of the pocket where the Muslims are thought to have trapped units of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

It was not clear whether the government forces were trying to take the town, evacuated by most of its women and children, or the BSA had launched an expected counter-attack.

But U.N. spokesman Michael Williams said in Zagreb: "It seems to be more the resumption of the (Muslim) offensive as Serbs have difficulty forming new lines."

A U.N. source in the Bihac enclave and Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said the BSA shelled the towns of Bihac and Cazin overnight and during the morning. There was no word of casualties.

The bombardment was not confirmed by official U.N. spokesmen who were awaiting reports from military observers in the field.

It defied a warning to the Serbs by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) against taking revenge on Muslim civilians for defeats suffered in attacks by the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps.

Bihac town, though not the much larger enclave, is a Muslim safe haven under U.N. protection. Serb forces attacking it risk strikes by NATO warplanes under tougher new rules agreed by the alliance and peacekeepers.

Muslim troops swept south from the Bihac pocket last week to capture around 200 square kilometres of Serb soil and threaten Bosanska Krupa on the Una River.

Thousands of Serb civilians fled their homes, some to the rebel Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) in neighbouring Croatia.

The BSA sent Deputy Commander General Milan Gvero to the region to prepare an expected counter-attack after Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic ordered the mobilisation of all men of fighting age.

The Muslim thrust which began in the northwest in mid-week spearheaded a wider offensive that also revived fighting in central Bosnia and around Sarajevo.

It lifted government morale by inflicting the worst defeat of the war on the BSA which appears to be stretched on more fronts than it can defend despite its superiority in tanks and artillery.

The fighting around Bosanska Krupa began in mid-morning, according to Bangladeshi soldiers deployed in Bihac as peacekeepers who said it was intense.

The town's loss would be a serious psychological blow to

the Serbs whose military dominance of the 30-month war is crumbling since they lost their main logistical lifeline to former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. source in Bihac, who declined to be named, said the BSA had no option but to counter-attack but added: "You have to question their resources. If they fail, it would be even more disastrous politically."

UNPROFOR's Colonel Jacques Lechevallier said peacekeeping Commander General Sir Michael Rose and NATO would decide whether to react to the BSA shelling of Muslim civilian targets with air strikes.

The Serbs killed a child and wounded three other civilians when they shelled the Sarajevo suburbs of Hrasnica Saturday, apparently in retaliation for an infantry attack by government forces near the capital.

The BSA had threatened to shell "selected targets" in Sarajevo unless Gen. Rose stopped the Bihac offensive and dislodged Muslims from a Sarajevo demilitarised zone.

It claimed the attacks proved Muslims abused U.N. safe haven status for military advantage.

Muslim forces are also in trouble with UNPROFOR after shelling an observation post manned by French peacekeepers in the zone Saturday.

But Col. Lechevallier admits the U.N.'s efforts to get all Muslim forces out of the zone as the BSA had

insisted had failed.

"We are here as peacekeepers," he told reporters. "We cannot force the (Muslims) to leave the zone."

Russia would withdraw its peacekeeping troops from the former Yugoslavia if NATO gained ultimate control over whether to use force in the Balkans, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was quoted Sunday as saying.

NATO Friday approved a new deal with the United Nations on plans for joint bombing operations in Bosnia. Although NATO officials stressed there would be change in the basic "dual key" command structure under which the alliance supports U.N. decisions, the deal clearly rang alarm bells in the Kremlin.

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying he had an understanding with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that the dual key principle was not even on the agenda of the talks with NATO.

"If it was a case of abolishing the 'dual key' principle, if the final word... was handed over to NATO or some other body, and taken from the U.N., then the nature of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina would change radically," Interfax quoted him as saying.

Mr. Kozyrev said the Russian upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, would strongly object if the dual key principle were

abolished.

"I would have to turn to the upper house of parliament and ask to have our peacekeeping troops removed from Bosnia," Mr. Kozyrev said. "If there are any significant changes we will weigh them and put them before the Federation Council."

Moscow has generally backed the west over the conflict in former Yugoslavia, despite accusations from Russian hardliners that President Boris Yeltsin and his government are selling out to Washington and its allies.

But Russia, a traditional ally of the Serbs, strongly opposes President Bill Clinton's moves to lift a U.N. arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims.

Mr. Kozyrev, speaking to reporters before leaving Moscow for Morocco to attend a meeting, stressed Russia was extremely concerned about the consequences of lifting the ban.

He also criticised the Muslims for launching offensives against Serb positions near Sarajevo, saying they were blatantly stepping up the conflict.

And in an obvious side-swipe at Washington, he said the Muslims had been encouraged by talk of lifting the embargo.

"The Muslims obviously think: 'If we're talking about lifting the embargo, it means it's time to step up (our) attacks'," the agency quoted him as saying. "This worries Russia a great deal."

Man who fired on White House is charged

WASHINGTON (R) — A man who fired a hail of bullets at the White House has been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and damaging government property, a Secret Service spokesman said Sunday.

Authorities say Francisco Martin Duran, a 26-year-old hotel worker from Colorado, let loose a stream of bullets from an SKS Chinese-made semi-automatic rifle through the iron gates of the White House Saturday afternoon.

A spokesman for the Secret Service, the agency that guards the president, said Mr. Duran would be arraigned Monday before a U.S. magistrate.

He has been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and with "willful injury of U.S. government property."

The spokesman said that while in the army Mr. Duran had pleaded guilty to 1991 to felony assault and related charges and was sentenced to five years imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth Prison in Kansas. He served four years of his sentence.

Although the mid-afternoon shooting scattered tourist traffic along Pennsylvania Avenue, no one was hurt inside or outside the White House, officials said.

Three rounds struck the mansion and five others hit the adjacent press briefing room. White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta told reporters. The areas struck by bullets were cordoned off with police tape and put under guard.

Mr. Panetta and the Secret Service stressed that Mr. Clinton was never in any danger. The president, whose schedule was not interrupted by the incident, told 3,000 people at an Italian-American dinner Saturday night that he was watching college football on television when the sound of the bullets "blended in with the cheers" of the game.

Mr. Clinton joked that he was glad to be back "in the safety and security of the White House" after returning earlier in the day from the violence-plagued Middle East.

Nevertheless, he credited quick thinking by at least two bystanders, who tackled the suspect and held him until help arrived. He said the citizens "did their duty."

"He still had a clip in one hand and was trying to reload when he was tackled," said eyewitness Lee Brooks.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokeswoman Susan Lloyd said possible charges against Mr. Duran, 26, included attempted assassination, destruction of government property and illegal possession of a weapon.

Burmese junta signals dialogue plans with opposition

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's military junta has confirmed its wish to open a dialogue with the opposition through a well-publicised second meeting with detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, observers say.

For three hours Friday, junta strongman Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt had a "frank and cordial" meeting on political and economic matters with the celebrated political prisoner, according to state-run television.

Footage of the meeting was broadcast Friday, and Burma's three state-run newspapers were snapped up Saturday by people eager to learn about the talks, although reports were terse.

Details of their discussions were not available. Aung San Suu Kyi is barred from meeting foreign journalists, and

the local media is tightly controlled.

"The people are not exactly jumping with joy, but they are clearly very pleased," a Western diplomat in Rangoon reached by telephone from Bangkok said Saturday, describing the meeting as a "serious development."

The diplomat noted that Friday's meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi was longer than the first and had "less of the protocol aspects."

Observers said that, the junta, by holding two meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi since Sept. 20, has cast her in the role of opposition mediator with the military regime that seized power in 1988 after troops crushed massive pro-democracy protests.

The junta, known as the State Law and Order Res-

toration Council (SLORC), has been under constant international pressure to free Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest since July 1989, and to open dialogue with the opposition.

Despite her detention, her National League for Democracy won the 1990 general elections, but the junta has refused to accept the results and cede power to civilians.

In 1991, the 49-year-old daughter of Burmese independence hero Aung San was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her nonviolent campaign for democracy in her homeland, ruled by the military for more than 30 years now.

Over the last few months the SLORC has gradually opened up the Burmese economy, devastated by the for-

mer dictator Ne Win's self-reliance policies.

But the recent 15-year prison term slapped on a Burmese former official at the United Nations, and seven-year terms for three others, for alleged anti-government activities, has underscored the junta's refusal to cede political ground.

Most observers believe the discussions between the junta and the opposition evoked a "Chilean solution" for Burma, based on a gradual withdrawal of the military from the political arena and protection of its economic and other interests.

The resumption of normal international aid to Burma has been linked by donors to an improvement in the regime's bloodstained human rights record.

Pope puts stamp on church, names new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (R) — The ailing Pope John Paul named 30 new cardinals from 24 countries Sunday, seeking to leave his mark on the Catholic Church for decades to come.

Cardinals, the red-hatted "princes of the church" are the elite who elect a new Pontiff for their own ranks. The highest-ranking aides under the Pope, they advise him on the most important church matters and represent the church around the world.

One of the new cardinals could eventually succeed the 74-year-old conservative

Pontiff, who has shown strains of age and failing health. The new appointments increase the college of Cardinals to 167.

They include prelates from two countries where the church still operates under communism — Cuba and Vietnam — and four countries where communism has fallen: Albania, the Czech Republic, Bosnia, and Belarus.

The Pope announced the appointment of the cardinals to pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square for his weekly Sunday address.

The new cardinals also come from Italy, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, Lebanon, Japan, Chile, Scotland, Mexico, Indonesia, Belgium, France, Uganda, Peru, Spain, Madagascar, Ecuador, and Germany.

Nearly all of the new cardinals named by the Polish Pope are under 80-years old and therefore eligible to join the customary secret conclave to choose a successor after his death.

The percentage of "cardinal electors" named by the current Pontiff rises to more than 85 per cent of the total

of 120 set by church law. The others were named by previous Popes.

The Pope, still recovering from surgery to repair a leg he broke in a fall last April, said a "co-synod," or ceremony to install the new cardinals, will take place at the Vatican on Nov. 26.

It will be the thirty-sixth synod to create new cardinals in the 16-year reign of the staunchly conservative Pontiff, who has used nearly every previous appointment to consolidate conservatism into the college that will choose his successor.

Culture clash complicates Cambodia hostage drama

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia continued the search Sunday for three Western tourists abducted by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in July, but without finding either a grave site or proof they were still alive.

Phnom Penh said the hostages should be considered safe until there was proof to the contrary, while Australia, Britain and France feared it was likely their three nationals had been killed.

The differing views highlight a cultural clash which has complicated diplomatic relations in the wake of the government assault on Khmer Rouge bases at Phnom Vour over the past month.

"Bad news makes Cambodians uncomfortable. Their view is, 'until they're seen to be dead, they're alive,'" one diplomat said.

Cambodian officials, from Co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh on down, argue that Western diplomats and the press prefer bad news to good, and should wait for hard facts before jumping to a conclusion.

Both sides are impatiently awaiting word from Phnom Vour, where government forces were slowly advancing on a grave site defined in grid references by Khmer Rouge defectors last week.

"They are moving cautiously because of mines. The operation of searching is continuing," Information Ministry spokesman Sieng

Lapresse said Sunday. Government forces were also combing areas west and north of Phnom Vour, where the hostages were held at least initially, following reports they had been spotted moving away from the area in early October.

Australian David Wilson, 29, Briton Mark Slater, 28, and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, travelling as tourists, were seized July 26 when guerrillas ambushed their train in southern Kampot province.

In Melbourne Sunday, David Wilson's family said they had recent information from "reputable sources" that he was alive and criticised the government for causing them distress by saying the hostages were dead.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans described the criticism as "without foundation and obviously hurtful to those of us... who have been putting our heart and soul into trying to resolve this issue over the last three months."

Guerrillas killed 13 people in the train ambush July 26 and marched a large number of passengers away from the scene.

Virtually all the Cambodians have been freed, many in exchange for ransom, but there was no word on the fate of three Vietnamese believed abducted at the same time.

Prince Ranariddh said Friday he held out little hope for the Vietnamese, who were

likely murdered almost immediately by the Khmer Rouge, rabidly anti-Vietnamese since Hanoi's troops ousted them from power in Phnom Penh in January 1979.

But the Westerners were seen as a valuable commodity.

The local guerrilla commander first demanded \$150,000 in gold for their release. But later the Khmer Rouge leadership offered to trade them for political gains, demanding the official ban on the group be lifted and that Western nations refrain from supplying military aid to Phnom Penh.

The best hope for the hostages seemed to be their use as a bargaining chip, diplomats and government officials agreed.

Neither diplomats nor the government publicly spoke of the possibility the three may have died in government shelling of Phnom Vour — which was one of the versions of events provided by guerrilla defectors in Kampot.

The British and French ambassadors and the Australian charge d'affaires, in a hastily-arranged meeting Saturday morning with Prince Ranariddh just before his departure for Beijing, pressed the government to move with vigor.

The government is anxious to resolve the issue, Sieng Lapresse said Sunday after returning from Kampot. "We don't want to be the hostage of the hostages," he said.

Meanwhile, the family of an Australian hostage seized with two companions by Khmer Rouge rebels in Cambodia three months ago accused Canberra Sunday of seeking to wash its hands of the crisis.

The family of hostage David Wilson called a news conference here and said they were disgusted by Australian government statements citing reports that the three captives were dead.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in a radio report last week that he had received "very credible" reports the hostages were dead. Prime Minister Paul Keating said that if the reports were true, he wanted to offer the government's condolences.

Mr. Wilson's brother Tim said the family believed the three hostages were still alive and he charged the Australian government with putting its own ambitions and trade relations before their welfare.

The family demanded an apology for the distress the statements had caused and urged Mr. Keating and Mr. Evans to become directly involved in the crisis.

The Wilsons also said the government had conducted a "scare campaign" to prevent the family from speaking to reporters or seeking out alternative sources of information in Cambodia.

"Our questions have not been answered," Tim Wilson said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Peace at certain pace

IT HAS been repeatedly said that launching peace could be even more difficult than waging war. The signing and ratifying of the peace treaty with Israel could be a case in point. To begin with both countries would need time to digest the historic step that they have solemnly undertaken in Wadi Araba Wednesday. The implications of the giant leap into permanent peace between the two sides are clearly many and profound on every level. The biggest obstacle facing the new era is the attempt to recreate a new culture of peace and harmony. Good neighbourliness and cooperation would of course entail the involvement of not only officialdom but also the public. After so many years of separation and hostility, the transition into the new era would surely require patience and perseverance. The national psychology on both sides of the fence cannot be expected to transform completely and overnight from one of animosity and mistrust into an atmosphere of trust. Judging by the experience of Egypt, the pace of consolidating the peace accord between it and Israel has been slow and painful on certain occasions. All the talk about making that peace warmer has yet to materialise. The situation between Jordan and Israel is obviously different. The Egyptian and Israeli peoples are separated by the Sinai desert, a formidable barrier that ended being not only a physical obstacle but also a social, economic and above all psychological one. The links between Jordan and Israel on the other hand are closer in every conceivable way. There is hardly 100 kilometres that separates Amman from Tel Aviv. The border checkpoints are not more than 40-50 kilometres away from the centres of population in either country. Even more relevant could be the positive chemistry that developed between the leaderships and officials of the two states during the course of the peace process. All these facts augur well for cementing a positive tie provided we measure each and every step of the way and act correctly and prosperously. Israel must be presumed to formulate its policies in accordance with its own national interests which may not correspond with ours every step of the way. We have seen how even Arab states bound by common history and culture find themselves at loggerheads on some issues. As long as there are states, they will be driven first and foremost by their own national interests. That is why while welcoming the treaty with Israel we must not jump into hasty conclusions about the process of its implementation on the ground.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SALEH QALLAB, a columnist in Al Dustour, Sunday described U.S. President Bill Clinton's Middle Eastern tour as successful in that it served the U.S. Democratic Party on the eve of the congressional elections in the United States. Mr. Clinton has proved very skilful in election campaigns and in serving his party's candidates for the coming elections through skilful exploitation of foreign affairs, said the writer. While addressing Parliament in Amman, Mr. Clinton made Muslims feel he is like a sheikh, keen on respecting religion and noting that millions of American Muslims perform their daily prayers in freedom, said the writer. While in Israel, Mr. Clinton sought to win favour of world Jews, especially those in the United States, by giving promises of further support to Israel. At the same time, the U.S. president was keen on winning the favour of the Christian voters, when he said that he was a devout worshipper and was abiding by the teachings of his own pastor who advised him to remain faithful to Israel, added Mr. Qallab. Mr. Clinton was very generous in promises to the Arabs and with his eloquence had his audience dreaming of prosperity and the millions of dollars that will be pouring into our region, said the writer. Mr. Clinton has gone back home now, said the writer, and the audience, especially the Arabs, are still under the spell of the dream that the desert will be blooming soon, and are waiting for the fulfilment of the American president's promises.

TAREQ MASARWEH said that the Casablanca conference, opening Sunday, was of paramount importance, especially as Washington has become convinced of the idea of launching economic schemes to hack the peace process in the Middle East. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Casablanca will not tackle projects to be implemented in Jordan but those that could be started in different nations within the region and the priorities that should be made. The meeting could be steering the countries of the region towards the style the United States, Canada and Mexico adopted in organising their economic relations or the style of the European Community, he said.

Creating a regional environment for peace

By Dr. S. Farooq Hasanat

A PARALLEL, but contradictory, developments have in recent weeks progressed in the demanding region of the Middle East. On the one hand, the peace process between the Arabs and the Israelis moved ahead, while the prevailing Iraqi armed movements near the Kuwaiti border presented a different depiction. What we witness today is a mixed promise of a peaceful and prosperous region, closely accompanied by the fears of mounting domestic conflicts as well as the possibility of limited wars in the future. Furthermore, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and south Lebanon poses further dangers for the initiation of a genuine peace treaty. In general, the landscape of the region needs a drastic improvement.

A comprehensive peace progress has a long way to cover — the Palestinian/Israeli adjustments being the most complicated.

On the Jordanian-Israeli front a peace treaty has been signed. The treaty earned Jordan an enhanced prestige in the international community of nations. His Majesty King Hussein, in his address to parliament, on Oct. 23, made it clear that Jordan's role has been highlighted by the treaty. The King went on to say that Jordan has attained a "significant and central location in the region." He added that the treaty "will enable Jordan to tackle its basic problems, particularly those of poverty, unemployment, water and electricity."

A surprised reaction against the treaty came from Jordan's neighbours, through their rather illogical reservations on the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement. Apparently, they could not fully comprehend the real essence of the treaty. One can understand their frustration, as they no longer are calling all the shots, but the Palestinian reaction is beyond any comprehension. This came in spite of the fact that the Jordanian government made it clear on a number of occasions that it would provide all possible support to the Palestinians and the Arab people, in their dealing with the Israelis.

There are many hurdles which the PLO leadership has to cross in order to achieve a minimum of a statehood. It has to concentrate on the vital issues of settlements, autonomy, elections within its own ranks, possession of more territory in the West Bank and above all opening up of a dialogue with other Palestinian groups like Hamas. On the contrary, it selected to create a row on the issue of the legitimate religious rights of the Hashemite rulers of Jordan in Jerusalem. The real aim of the Palestinian leadership should be to demonstrate sufficient preparedness while dealing with the complicated matters of immediate attention. It was expected that the PLO leadership would in all fairness cooperate with the Jordanian position — a country which provided it protection in its time of wilderness.

The other pattern of activity, as mentioned above, has been in the unwarranted Iraqi troop movement towards the Kuwaiti border. Some of the neighbouring countries visualised it as a real threat, especially the Kuwaitis and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members. Others reacted with scepticism and considered the reaction of the Western powers, particularly the United States unjustified. Whatever the truth, the unexplainable action of the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein

sent a message across, that there still exist elements of tensions and conflict prone sectors in the region and if given a chance, they might disrupt the tranquillity of the region.

Various types of conflict situations exist in the region. The area is known for its fault-lines, ranging from the underdevelopment or even decay of the domestic structures; questions of regime support; civil strife, to that of territorial disputes, idiosyncratic behaviour of some leaders, a rush to acquire armaments and an egoistic struggle to gain a leadership role in the regional context.

The basic danger that can upset the strategic equilibrium of the region, resides in underdevelopment and decay of political, social and economic structures of many contemporary societies in the Arab Middle East. There is hardly a country, with the exception of Jordan and Lebanon, that can claim the authentic involvement of its people in government through elected representatives. The bosses of these nations decide the fate of the millions on personal impulses. It has been proven by past events that most of the confusion in the region originates from the whimsical and egoistic policies of those at the helm of affairs. Intoxicated by absolute power, some of these leaders venture, outside their borders, for an adventurous course. As witnessed in the past, such action cause serious threats to the security of not only the neighbouring countries but for the region as a whole.

Another security hazard lies in the unsolved territorial disputes that have created anxious moments in the recent past. This predicament is prevalent in the Gulf area, in particular. It has been complicated by the inflated ac-

mulatation of armament by some of the regional nations. The practice has had adverse effects on the security matters of these entities as it failed to produce the expected results. There is a unanimity of view amongst the Western as well as regional analysts that the weapons transfer, has left some of the oil producers with deficit budgets and little security guarantees for their people. For this, both the importers as well as the suppliers are to be blamed. Such an operation has also encouraged foreign powers to intervene in the regional security matters.

The style of some Arab leaders carries within itself the most precarious psychological problems, which in turn become a major factor towards the disturbance of tranquillity and peace. In the quest to become the self-imposed commanders of the "Arab Nation", they radiate immediate tensions and suspicions amongst the neighbours. Only mutual understanding would help to create a congenial and friendly atmosphere. On the basis of a wider vision there has to be a gesture of cooperation, respect for the others and a spirit of a teamwork.

The above mentioned security risks for the Arab Middle East are not difficult to overcome. The area has tremendous resources, talent and a stable cultural base. Through an atmosphere of steady confidence and rational attitudes the regional peace procedures has a fair chance to succeed — not only in peace making but also in the more difficult challenge of peace preservation.

The writer is a visiting professor at the University of Jordan. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Human Rights File

By Walid Sadi

The amazing Swiss rate

WHEN SWITZERLAND decided to ratify the International Convention Against Racial Discrimination, it had to go to the people for that goal. More than two weeks ago, Bern held a referendum on the issue when some 50,000 Swiss, signed a petition calling for it in defiance of the government's earlier decision to go ahead with its official decision to accede to that treaty. What is amazing about the decision was that the vote was so close between those who supported the end of all forms of racial discrimination in accordance with the relevant convention and those who opposed it.

The Swiss people were almost even split on the issue, with only a fraction of the voters agreeing to the ratification of the convention. Who ever thought that the Swiss, of all people, would be so evenly divided on an issue that we all thought would unite the people of the earth? All human rights treaties calling for ending discrimination in all its forms are usually adopted with the least amount of opposition and accession to them also offer the least resistance from the countries worldwide. So what happened in good old Switzerland that hosts the second most important United Nations office outside New York that prevented it from going ahead with its initial plan to become party of the convention against racial discrimination?

I for one, doubt that Swiss people in general are anything but for racial discrimination. Switzerland has been a safe haven for refugees fleeing their countries from all corners of the world in search for freedom from oppression. The record of Switzerland on that score is indeed exemplary throughout the past decades. I cannot therefore believe that the Swiss people will ever resist international efforts to eradicate racial discrimination. Many conservative elements within the Swiss society have successfully prevented their successive governments from ever joining the United Nations system out of jealousy, albeit misguided, for their independence and sovereignty in the most absolute terms. No wonder then that the Swiss people repeatedly refused membership in the European Community even though such membership could realise for them countless economic gains. Against this backdrop, the real reason why many Swiss, about 950,000 out of 2,900,000 who voted in the recent referendum, voted against the ratification of the International Convention Against Racial Discrimination. This is attributed to deep inborn Swiss characteristics that are against involvement in international treaties in a legal way. The best evidence of this is the fact that Switzerland is anything but racist. As a matter of fact the Swiss are very tolerant people who made their country a refuge to so many people of different races, cultures colours and religions.

LETTERS

Religions no answer to heart matters

To the Editor:

THE STORY: He was Christian, she was Muslim and both were Arabs. They met and in no time all they needed was love. Somehow their relationship moved quickly from being a fleeting interest to being a life necessity.

One would expect Christians and Muslims to experience the world differently, yet, in this instance, both families agreed that their relationship must end. To his family the situation was nothing less than an expression of faithlessness. The family insisted that the son would be better off with a Christian. Similarly, her family members suffered from a deep depression, and were overwhelmed by the fact that their own daughter chose to be part of this monstrosity. Their conclusion was direct: an interfaith relationship may be an entertaining possibility in Egyptian soap operas, but in reality, it can only bring shame and misery.

Do religions decide who we ought to love? Are the conservative gurus right when they say: one needs a common background because as time passes love slips away? To most (not all) people who were in love before, the answer to these questions is "yes". They usually warn future fools in love and say: when two people are in love they find looking in each others eyes intoxicating, but received wisdom had told us again and again that what they ought to do is to look in the same direction.

Although there is an air of rationality about these conservative features of the lived-experience of love. Whether we like it or not, individuals lie at the heart of romantic relationships: individuals with different ideas, attitudes, desires and moods make and break relationships. Neither religions nor common backgrounds can guarantee success.

At the door step of 1995, our society still, at least in practice, ignores the primacy of the individual even in matters of the heart. And religions, in this situation, cannot provide answers because they are part of the dispute. Therefore, we have to be honest and see that the situation presents us with a true moral dilemma. All involved must stop pretending that there is an objective prescription or solution. Whoever is involved must choose and bear the consequences.

Our story contains a multi-layered conflict, on the one hand between the teachings of two great religions, and on the other between the individual and society. The conflict is also clouded with the ambiguity of love itself. Regrettably, the result is a serious guessing game, parents cling to traditions they vaguely belong to, the young cannot help but believe that their desires are legitimate, and both feel that they are right.

As they say: Most people find the merry-go-round safe but some prefer the roller-coaster.

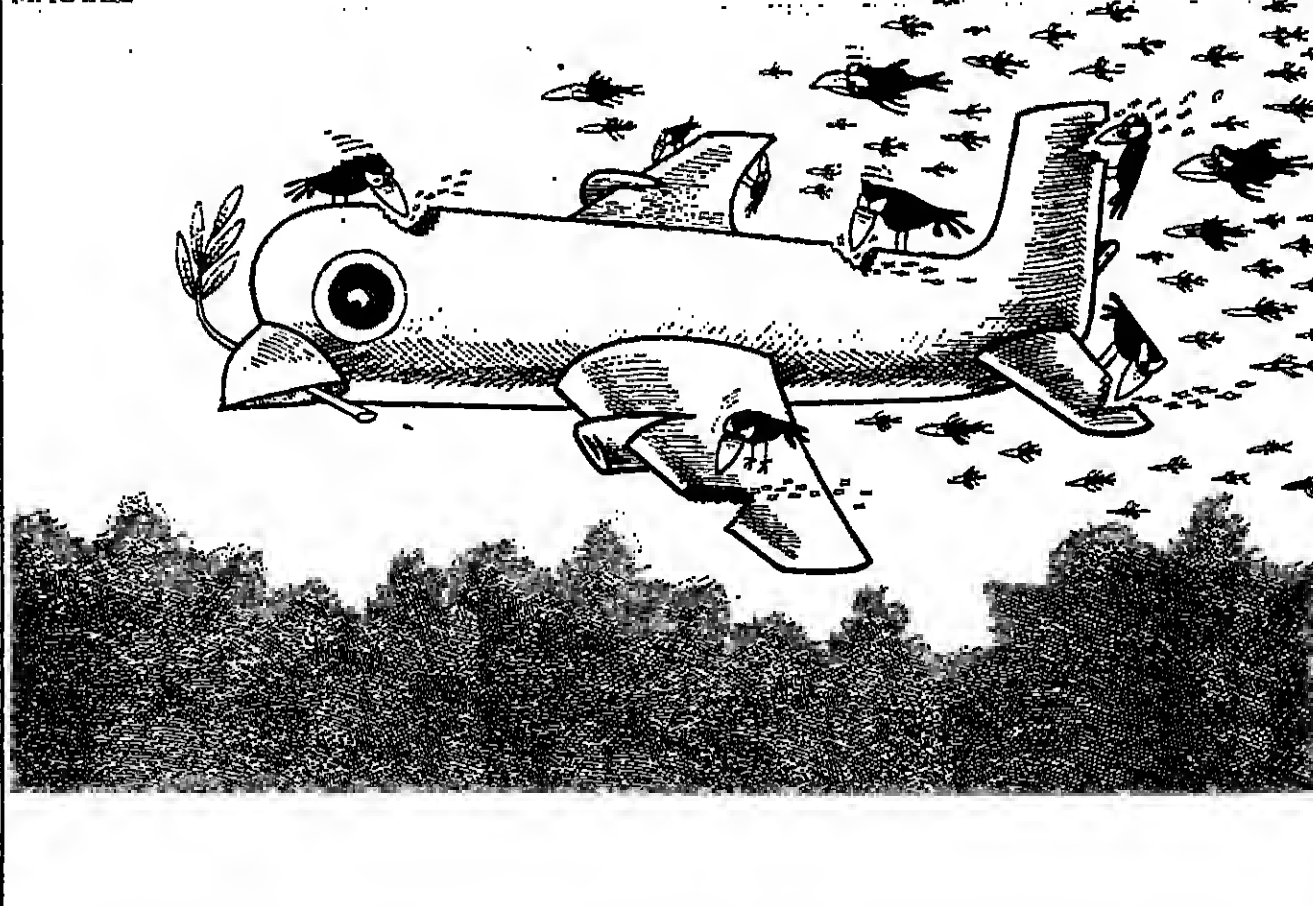
Ayman Zanoos,
Amman.

CORRECTION

Due to a typographical error, the name of the writer of the letter to the editor "Good times to come," (the Jordan Times, Oct. 30) was misspelt. The correct name is Fawzi Jumean.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

M. KAHIL



House of Saud must reform

By Patrick Bishop

THE LATEST Gulf crisis has focused the attention of the West on the shaky state of its vital ally in the region: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd, 73, the head of the Al Saud dynasty, has long been a sick man and his own frailty is mirrored by the political and economic ailments of the country. Saudi Arabia is a machine that runs on money and, after years of profligacy, mismanagement and corruption it is running out. Anger against the ruling house has also risen, led by fundamentalists preaching puritanism.

On the sidelines, America looks on nervously, uncertain whether to take a hand in the question of who is to succeed the monarch. Historians may look back on the West's rescue mission in the Gulf war to save Saudi Arabia from President Saddam Hussein of Iraq as a turning point in the country's fortunes.

The bill for the war has been estimated at \$40 billion, placing a strain on an economy which was already staggering.

The experience forced Saudis to look critically at the royal family. The war proved that despite massive expenditure on arms, it was

incapable of defending itself, necessitating the arrival of an army of unbelievers.

Dissent has been growing, culminating last month in protests in the central city of Bureida following the arrest of Salman Al Awda, a fundamentalist preacher who has built up a following by denouncing corruption and political repression.

Fundamentalist dissidents such as Mohammad Al Massari of the London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights make no secret of the fact that their aim is the removal of the monarchy and its replacement by a theocracy. The situation has concentrated the minds of the royal household, whose members according to the latest historian of the dynasty, Mr. Said Aburish, number more than 7,000.

Two high family councils were in a most constant session in August discussing how to deal with the crisis.

King Fahd's age, condition and temperament make it unlikely that the kingdom can reform itself in his life-time. "The succession will be the trigger," said Mr. Aburish. "It's a natural time for reassessment."

The designated heir is Crown Prince Abdullah,

71, the king's half-brother who is regarded as having clean hands. He has a strong power base in the National Guard, which is more efficient and reliable than the army, and is admired as an Arab patriot.

But what endears him to some of his countrymen causes unease in Washington, which wants a pro-Western monarch. One option preferred by the administration is that the succession devolves to a younger, more modern figure such as the Princeton educated Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. King Fahd's nephew and son of the late King Faisal, who is untainted by corruption.

How the matter will be resolved is unclear. British diplomats believe that were King Fahd to die tomorrow, Prince Abdullah would succeed unchallenged, although some believe he faces a possible challenge from the Defence Minister Prince Sultan, King Fahd's brother.

If the monarchy is to be reformed, the ruling house will have to show a sense of self-denial that has been alien to it. The wealth generated by oil has dispelled any sense of proportion.

Mr. Aburish estimates that there are 50 billionaires in Saudi Arabia. Expenditure on the royal household

amounts of \$4.3 billion out of the kingdom's \$28 billion annual oil revenue.

The successor will also have to accept the inevitability of political reform. After the Gulf war, King Fahd created a consultative council, limited to debate. As with any delayed modernisation, reform risks precipitating the regime's downfall.

Any relaxation of authoritarian rule is bound to revive the tensions that in the past were still by repressive policing and liberal applications of money.

The kingdom's problems are not insurmountable. The potential opposition does not form a cohesive group.

Possession of power and oil means that the dynasty has the means of retrieving the situation. But it would still require drastic measures, analysts, believe.

There would include the renunciation of significant amounts of wealth, cleaning up corruption and handing over a degree of power, such changes would mean the end of Saudi Arabia as the personal fiefdom of the House of Saud. But if they fail to make them, critics say, it will mean the end of the House of Saud.

Daily Telegraph.

U.S. to bomb Kuwait range to show power

KUWAIT (Agencies) — American warplanes flying from the United States will bomb the Kuwait desert on Tuesday to show Iraq the global reach of U.S. power following recent border tensions with the emirate, the U.S. embassy said on Sunday.

The long-range B-1 and B-52 heavy bombers will be taking part in air exercises by more than 100 U.S. warplanes starting at 0800 GMT over Kuwait and the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq below the 32nd Parallel, an embassy statement said.

"Air crews will fly at super-altitude and air-to-ground missions during the manoeuvres and will refine their skills necessary to suppress enemy air defences and provide close air support for friendly ground forces," it said.

Iraq massed about 60,000 troops close to the Kuwait border earlier this month, apparently to step up pressure for the lifting of economic sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion.

The United States, Britain and Gulf Arab allies rushed forces including 200 U.S. warplanes to the region to prevent what some feared might be a repeat of Baghdad's invasion and seven-month 1990-91 occupation of the oil-producing emirate.

Iraq withdrew its troops and the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution barring Baghdad from possessing large amounts of heavy armaments in the south.

"Participation of the bombers demonstrates the ability of the United States to respond to aggression by delivering massive firepower from home bases in a relatively short time," it said.

In a similar exercise B-52 bombers flying non-stop around the world and refuelling in mid-air bombed the

Kuwait desert on August 2 on the fourth anniversary of Iraq's 1990 invasion.

Diplomats said that on Tuesday the bombers were expected to fly non-stop from the United States but after the exercises would probably head back the way they came and refuel in Europe.

Western powers established the "no-fly" zone after the 1991 Gulf war to protect Shi'ite Iraqi opposition groups which staged a failed rebellion against Baghdad.

Coalition aircraft have been operating from bases in Saudi Arabia and Turkey since Joint Task Force South-West Asia was established in August 1992 to monitor the no-fly zone.

No details were provided about the other aircraft taking part in Tuesday's operations and embassy officials could not be reached for further comment.

The Pentagon announced Thursday it was sending more warplanes and equipment to the Gulf, including two squadrons of A-10 tank-killers ground-attack jets that will be based in Kuwait.

That announcement came the day before President Clinton stopped in Kuwait on a Middle East tour to visit U.S. troops sent to Kuwait earlier this month.

There are 28,300 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines in the region now, according to the Pentagon. That total is expected to grow to around 34,000 during military exercises planned over the next few months.

The oil emirate, liberated in February 1991, signed a 10-year defence pact with the United States shortly after the Gulf war.

Similar agreements were signed with Britain, France and Russia and another with China was expected before the end of the year.



SADDAM MEETS CHEVENEMENT: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein shakes hands with former French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement on Sunday. Mr. Chevenement resigned from his post to protest the French support to an allied military intervention led by the U.S. against Iraq.

Cellular phone deal signed

(Continued from page 1)

tial for Jordan, which has an antiquated telecommunications sector, in its efforts to attract foreign investment and to compete with other countries in the region, especially in peace time.

The GSM project, which is one of the country's largest ventures, is the second to allow the private sector to enter the telecommunications after a radio-paging concession granted four years ago.

The project will be implemented in four stages to cover the Kingdom; first, the replacement of car telephones and covering the central part of the country; second, the northern part of the country and Aqaba; third, covering the roads linking the northern and southern parts of the country; fourth to cover the roads leading to neighbouring countries.

According to the company official, the last stage of the project, the coverage of highways connecting Jordan to other countries, is optional.

The GSM tender was open to only Jordanian companies, as stipulated by a law passed by Parliament last year that allowed local private sector

participation in the telecommunications sector.

But the tender also required local firms to be associated with foreign companies with proven experience in the field.

The JMTS association with Motorola sparked controversy as it is listed on the Arab League's boycott list. Millicom, which came in second place after Motorola in the bidding, has filed a lawsuit against the government for allegedly violating the Arab boycott and other regulations of the tender conditions.

In a pre-bid conference with local investors, the TCC said foreign operators involved in the bids should not be on the boycott list.

Motorola operates Israel's cellular network and maintains manufacturing facilities there.

But observers here say that the suit and the reason behind it are obsolete since the Arab boycott has become a thing of the past after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty last Wednesday. Arabs and Israelis are also meeting in Casablanca to discuss investment in the area in peace time.

Israel welcomes Hrawi call

(Continued from page 12)

mountain area from where Hizbollah guerrillas attack the zone.

An Israeli general attacked on Sunday the conduct under fire of Israeli infantry soldiers whose position in Lebanon was raided by Hizbollah fighters, Israel Radio said.

"The soldiers and officers at the position were not at their posts and did not suc-

ceed in biting the terrorists, who reached the embankment," the radio quoted Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai as saying at a debriefing on Saturday's attack.

"Even after they identified the terrorists, the soldiers did not storm them," Gen. Mordechai was quoted as saying in rare public criticism by an Israeli general of his own troops.

Lamari is a former French army officer. He was made a captain in 1970 and was promoted to general in July 1990, then major-general in July 1992.

Austere and a strict believer in protocol, Gen. Lamari has been presented by the Algerian press as a "bardlin-

er" favouring force against armed Islamic groups.

Officials said seven extremists were killed Saturday in regions east of the capital and two were killed Friday in a village west of Algiers.

On Saturday authorities also announced the killing of 22 extremists

Lebanon seeks Arab home for Palestinians

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has urged Arab states to take some of about 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Lebanon refuses to settle the Palestinians permanently on its soil, and Mr. Bouez, in an interview published on Sunday, repeated his country's long-standing policy.

A permanent settlement of Palestinians, most of them who fled what became Israel in 1948, would upset Lebanon's delicate sectarian balance in a country of 3.2 million, he told Beirut's right-wing daily Al Amal.

Lebanon, which was

emerging from its 1975-90 civil war, did not have the economic means to take care of the huge number of refugees now living in a dozen squalid camps across the country.

The situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon — which has consistently refused to grant them citizenship — was different from other Arab or non-Arab states, Mr. Bouez added.

"In these countries there are no camps this small and Palestinians have the right to work, have social welfare, free education and almost become members of the state and do not constitute an eco-

nomic, political or social burden," he said.

"Hence, I say some of the Palestinians could be taken in some of the Arab states if that is possible as they cannot be contained in Lebanon for the reasons mentioned," Mr. Bouez said.

"There are the Gulf Arab states which import labourers heavily and are in need of them."

Mr. Bouez said that if refugees with roots in Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho were allowed to return that would solve up to 25 per cent of the whole refugee problem.

"We are not talking about

unrealistic matters, like imposing on Israel a return of Palestinians to areas that will remain Israeli," Mr. Bouez said.

"I am not saying there is a fundamental solution but a group of solutions that can together constitute an advanced stage of the solution," Mr. Bouez added.

Israel agreed in the 1993 interim autonomy deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation to discuss the return of refugees who fled as a result of the 1967 war, but not the 1948 refugees who make up most of the refugees in Lebanon.

King urges end to unfounded criticism

(Continued from page 1)

of confidence to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, saying he fully trusts him as a man who devoted his life to the service of the country and shouldered his responsibilities and fulfilled his duties.

"What we are about to face is bigger than (him) and you," the King told lawmakers, urging an end to character assassination and slander.

"This has got to stop; we cannot accept it," the King said.

He said immunity is for all citizens, for those who respect themselves and prove they deserve it.

"Immunity is not given to a person so that he could slander others and instigate people and say what contradicts with good manners for which religion has called," King Hussein said.

"Why should we slander each other; we should respect each other, march and build together," he said.

The King also called for an end to irresponsible rivalries which aim at making stands at the expense of others to the detriment of the interests of the country.

The King told lawmakers that none of them, regardless of his views, is more concerned than him or other members of the Jordanian negotiating teams about the interests of the Kingdom.

The King said freedom of speech should not be a licence to accuse others of blasphemy, saying that he has so far tolerated slander against the Kingdom and the Hashemite family.

But "is it not the right of

any person to respond to these speeches that some make from the pulpits of the Prophet?" the King said.

"We have always believed that justice will prevail and the truth will appear one day, but we were wrong" by remaining silent which led others to continue levelling false accusations against the Hashemites," King Hussein told deputies.

"This must stop in the future... we have learned the lesson and we are about to put everybody in the picture of all the Hashemite documents that tell the story of the Kingdom since the start of the Great Arab Revolt" in a belated effort to reveal the truth, King Hussein said.

King Hussein stressed the Kingdom's commitment to freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and pluralism, adding that the minority should respect the views of the majority.

He said the majority of the Jordanian people support the government's efforts to regain the country's rights in land and water and build a better future.

In Jordan, said the King, "there is commitment, there are abilities, there is an educated people... there is belonging to Arabism that nobody in the world can deny. Nobody can outbid us."

At the time when there is aspiration among the majority of the people to build a better future where security and stability prevails, said the King, "we find confusion in drawing the path for reaching

these goals and aspirations which are in the interest of all those you represent at the Chamber of Deputies."

"Let's put this stage behind and start fresh in reorganising the most minute details in our lives," the King said, stressing that the Kingdom does not discriminate among any of its citizens regardless of their origin.

The King said: "Intellectual terrorism is not exercised by the government. It is a process in which more than one group is participating."

He said: "The great majority of our press and our columnists are not with the country, and have not been with it on any day. It is unfair that this should continue."

Addressing the Palestinian issue, the King said no country has supported the Palestinians as much as Jordan did.

"Tell me of one Arab country in which Palestinians and the people of that country lived the way we did here. Remind me of any side that saved Jerusalem in 1948 but Jordan," the King told deputies in the meeting that was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Nayef Ben Ali, Dr. Majali, Royal Court Chief Shaif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisors.

The King said that Jordan does not compete with the Palestinians in Jerusalem or in any other part of the Palestinian land, stressing that Jordan will stand by them in their quest for the regaining of their rights.

King Hussein said Jordan

has always sought coordination with other Arab parties to the peace process but if others chose to go their own way then that is their choice for which they are responsible.

The King urged joint work to defend the country which he said is targeted "so that it will not be able to speak the word of truth as it has always done."

He said those who wanted the Kingdom to wait "to be the last in demanding its right want this country to be (destroyed) and to be in a position in which it will not be able to get any of its rights."

The King said the Kingdom is determined to deal with the problems that deputies emphasised such as those of unemployment and poverty.

All but three of the 16-member Islamic Action Front, which is leading the opposition to the treaty, were present in the meeting with the King. They were Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant, who is still recovering from injuries he suffered during violence after last Friday's noon prayers, and deputies Hammam Said and Ahmad Kofahi who were also absent from the House's session earlier in the day.

Six IAF deputies boycotted the King's speech from the Throne at the opening session of the Parliament, inciting the wrath of mainstream politicians and lawmakers, who according to informed sources, reacted by denying the front any of the leadership positions in the House.

The King said that Jordan

does not compete with the Palestinians in Jerusalem or in any other part of the Palestinian land, stressing that Jordan will stand by them in their quest for the regaining of their rights.

King Hussein said Jordan

has always sought coordination with other Arab parties to the peace process but if others chose to go their own way then that is their choice for which they are responsible.

The King urged joint work to defend the country which he said is targeted "so that it will not be able to speak the word of truth as it has always done."

He said those who wanted the Kingdom to wait "to be the last in demanding its right want this country to be (destroyed) and to be in a position in which it will not be able to get any of its rights."

The King said the Kingdom is determined to deal with the problems that deputies emphasised such as those of unemployment and poverty.

All but three of the 16-member Islamic Action Front, which is leading the opposition to the treaty, were present in the meeting with the King. They were Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant, who is still recovering from injuries he suffered during violence after last Friday's noon prayers, and deputies Hammam Said and Ahmad Kofahi who were also absent from the House's session earlier in the day.

Six IAF deputies boycotted the King's speech from the Throne at the opening session of the Parliament, inciting the wrath of mainstream politicians and lawmakers, who according to informed sources, reacted by denying the front any of the leadership positions in the House.



Senior Royal Court officials attend Sunday's audience (Petra photo)

Economic summit begins in Casablanca

(Continued from page 1)

the conference, said the conference was of paramount importance to help the concerned nations face the economic challenges between now and the end of the present century and beyond.

"I am honoured to representing His Majesty King Hussein at the meetings which are important and which would give impetus to economic cooperation among countries of the Middle East and North Africa," Prince Hassan said in an arrival statement.

He said that there had been talk about establishing a special fund for economic development in the two regions and U.S. President Bill Clinton had told Parliament in Amman that the United States would support the creation of such a fund which would finance economic schemes in the peace era.

The Prince expressed hope that the projected fund would operate along the style of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development involving private and public sectors.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the delegates to the conference would focus their attention on economic projects not only in North

Africa and the Middle East but also in southern Africa, an area which he said has been neglected so far.

The Prince said that there was need for helping the economies of these regions to be upgraded and qualified to be incorporated with the world economy.

Prince Hassan was welcomed by Prince Mohammed, the Crown Prince of Morocco, and senior government ministers and officials.

While the politicians made headlines, nearly 2,000 businessmen at the conference swapped cards and discussed the future of a region at peace for the first time in half a century.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in words designed to mobilise the huge business contingent gathered in Casablanca, said after talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat peace would have no validity if it brought no benefit to the man on the street.

The purpose of the three-day conference is to give potential investors a chance to meet the political movers and shakers in the Middle East and North Africa.

And they have come in

droves, Japanese, European and U.S. businessmen have registered for the unprecedented event for a chance to meet officials and experts from more than 60 countries gathered in Morocco's financial hub.

The sight of George Vassiliou, former president of Cyprus, embracing Mr. Arafat in a hotel lobby encapsulated the mood of the conference.

"This meeting is unique in that such a big number of people representing the business community of the world are meeting with political leaders," Mr. Vassiliou, who is closely associated with the conference organisation, told Reuters.

"The political leaders are giving their blessing to the whole process and it opens the doors to everything else," he added.

President Clinton, who with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin is co-sponsor of the conference, said in a message to the meeting that he saw it as an important forum for discussing the region's economic prospects and promoting business and investment opportunities.

"It will also make a significant contribution to advancing the peace process," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Rabin, in Casablanca with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and eight other Israeli cabinet ministers, wants to ensure that Israel gets a significant chunk of the billions investors are itching to sink into the region, a market of more than 150 million people. He also wants to find new markets for Israeli goods after decades of isolation.

The conference will discuss projects costing a total of \$25 billion. Egyptian Public Sector Minister Aief Ebeid announced.

Mr. Ebeid told the semi-official daily Al Akhbar: "The projects to be discussed at the conference have a total value of \$25 billion."

Egypt's Middle East News Agency said Friday that Cairo would propose 58 projects worth \$10 billion in Casablanca.

Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banbi said that during the conference Egypt would try to find investors for two oil projects costing a total of \$2.55 billion.

Meanwhile, the Moroccan weekly La Vie Economique (Economic Life) said the Israeli delegation was to put forward a plan for regional development projects requiring a budget of between \$18 and \$27 billion.

Israel detains Hamas members

(Continued from page 12)

Student leaders read out a statement condemning the treaty signed last Wednesday, in particular a clause which recognises Jordan's "historic role" in administering Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

They accused Jordan of having "betrayed the Arab cause by opening the way to an Israeli economic invasion."

The protest in Gaza City, in which about 500 students took part, was organised by the students' council linked to the Fateh faction.

On Saturday, 2,000 Palestinians demonstrated against the peace treaty in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Jenin.

An official Iraqi daily warned Sunday that Jordan

was jeopardising its own future and that of the whole Arab world because of the peace treaty it signed with Israel.

"Those who play an active role in U.S.-Zionist settlements harm the destiny of the Arab World and the future of their country," said the newspaper Babel, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

The editorial by the deputy information minister, Nuri Nejm Al Marsumi, said Washington's pledges of financial help for regional development, in return for progress in the U.S.-sponsored peace process, were "nothing but a mirage."

Babel did not refer explicitly to the Jordan-Israel treaty.

Algerian crisis turns worse

(Continued from page 12)

Lamari of "threats and calls to terror."

After directing special anti-terrorist forces beginning in September 1992, Gen.

Lamari became the army's chief of staff in July 1993, replacing Major-General Abdul Malek Guenazilia.

A medium-sized, burly man with a square face and a thick, black moustache, Gen.

Health care will hover over Congress

By Joanne Kenen-
Reuter

WASHINGTON — With all the bickering and politicking on health reform, one thing nearly got forgotten.

About 39 million Americans — one in seven people — lack insurance. By the year 2000, that number is forecast to rise to at least 41 million, two years after that, to 43 million.

That means the same public opinion that helped defeat health reform this year may very well expect Congress to do something next year about an intractable issue that has perplexed voters and stymied Congress for the past two years.

"There's going to be public rumbling in November. People are going to say, 'what happened?' where are my benefits?" Harvard health analyst Bob Blendon said in a recent interview.

"There's a huge gap between public expectations and what Congress is doing. No politician is going to completely. People want Congress to take more time, but they still think it's going to play out next year," Mr. Blendon added.

Some lawmakers say this past year has been a learning process and that a wiser

to address health reform in a comprehensive manner next year.

"The road is now clear for pursuing universal coverage without distraction," said liberal Washington Democrat Rep. Jim McDermott, a backer of a Canadian-style national system.

"I'm not throwing in the towel," said Rhode Island Republican John Chafee, a moderate who led the bipartisan "mainstream coalition," whose members hope their plan could be a starting point for a fresh start next year.

But many lawmakers and academic experts, including some strong backers of reform, see only a slender chance that Congress can repeat an effort for comprehensive reform that left it exhausted, drained and divided with nothing but mountains of studies and crates of testimony to show for it.

"The momentum for comprehensive coverage and a health bill is dead," Iowa Democrat Sen. Tom Harkin said recently, as he surrendered hopes for universal coverage and began putting his efforts into a plan to cover American children.

There are several scenarios for less sweeping bills in 1995, all of which could

also run smack into partisan roadblocks a year before the 1996 presidential campaign.

Some approaches would centre on covering a segment of the population, like children of the working poor, an option that could mesh with the expected drive for welfare reform.

Others would focus on ebbing federal regulations so that states have more room to innovate on their own. Two senators, Democrat Bob Graham of Florida and Republican Mark Hatfield of Oregon, have already drafted such a bill.

Perhaps the most likely would be revamped regulation of the insurance industry. That could make it harder, for instance, for insurers to exclude people with pre-existing health problems. But experiments on the state level have found that such reforms seem deceptively simple and can actually boomerang and make insurance more expensive.

"There's presumably support on both sides of the aisle for insurance reform, but the irony is, it's not so easy to agree on it. When you look at the details, there are very different definitions, different levels of how aggressively you want to reform," said Urban in-

stitute health analyst Marilyn Moon.

The future will depend partly on politics and the outcome of the November congressional elections. Republicans are expected to pick up seats in both the House and the Senate. That would make any comprehensive form of the type President Clinton has championed almost unimaginable.

The various Republican plans put forth over the past year were narrower in scope and promoted "universal access" to health care, not universal coverage.

Minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas — who hopes to become the majority leader if Republicans seize control of the senate — predicted health reform would remain on the congressional agenda but declined to predict what type of health care bill he will back next year.

Like most Republicans, Mr. Dole objected to any "employer mandate" requiring businesses to pay for workers' insurance. He later supported limited subsidies for the poor, but declined this week to say whether he would stick to that approach next year, or focus only on insurance market reform.

Jordan businessmen await peace boost to economy

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's business leaders are taking a wait-and-see attitude regarding any boost to their country's stagnant economy from peace with Israel.

"It's still early to talk about the economic impact of peace on the country because there are projects that will take a long while to materialise," Adnan Salakah, general manager of ANZ Grindlays Bank's Jordanian subsidiary, told Reuters.

Jawad Al Hadid, head of Jordan's Arab Banking Corporation, says investors have so far seen only a partial write-off of Jordan's crippling \$6.8 billion in foreign debt. And if the stock market is in an indicator of business confidence, Jordan has not only failed to respond favourably to peace but has actually declined.

The market dropped to 144.61 points after the initialing of a peace treaty on Oct. 17 and has continued to fall throughout the month de-

spite the rapid pace of peace moves.

"The market still awaits the many promises of peace to materialise before reacting," said broker Majed Ali Khreisha.

Business leaders say that if and when the much-needed shot in the arm for Jordan's economy comes, it will be after border posts between the two countries formally open early next month and businessmen start cross-border visits to look for deals.

They believe tourism will be an early beneficiary of peace even though Jordan lags in availability of adequate hotel rooms.

Land prices have shot up near the Dead Sea and ancient Nabatean city of Petra — two major tourist attractions — and at the countries' two border crossings in the north and south.

Industrial ventures to develop the Jordan rift valley and the mineral rich Dead Sea will have a longer lead time, of five to 10 years, but they are expected to soak up

excess labour and widen the country's small industrial base.

Jordan's Arab Potash Company, which exploits mineral deposits from the dead sea, says the peace accord affords it more possibilities of financing and speeding up \$500 million of projects now in the drawing board.

"It will now be more possible to get long-term soft loans to exploit the sea's minerals, diversify our exports and widen our industrial base," manager Suleiman Al Hawari said.

But he cautions Jordan still has to prepare viable projects that can attract foreign investors at a time when Israelis have the advantages of greater expertise and better financing.

Most businessmen agree red-tape also must be wiped out to revive investors' confidence. They say updated investment laws are needed to guard against losing out in dealing with Israel, whose economy is 14 times larger than Jordan's.

IMF to lend more to developing nations and former USSR

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that it will sharply boost the amount of money it has on hand for lending to developing countries and former East Bloc nations.

The move will free up tens of billions of dollars in extra IMF loans for countries from Russia to Brazil, provided they pursue tough economic reforms.

Under the plan, the loan ceiling on IMF stand-by loans and extended fund financing credits will be increased to 100 per cent of a borrowing nation's quota, or shareholding at the IMF, from 68 per cent now.

That means that a country like Russia, which is currently engaged in negotiations with the IMF on a one-

year stand-by loan, could borrow as much as \$6 billion from the fund, instead of \$4 billion.

"I warmly welcome this substantial increase," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said in a statement. "(It) will be very helpful and will allow the IMF to strongly support members' adjustment and reform programmes, and the associated financing needs."

At its annual meeting earlier this month in Madrid, the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee agreed to increase the access limit.

The Interim Committee though was unable to reach agreement on a controversial plan by Mr. Camdessus to pump some \$50 billion into the world economy through an issue of special drawing rights, the IMF's artificial currency.

EU gives Japan trade wish list, attacks U.S.

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission has presented Japan with a 15-page shopping list of desired trade reforms, and took a side-swipe at America's hard-line method of doing business with Tokyo.

The European Commission's top Japan official, John Richardson, said the list of requests for deregulation initiatives was aimed at helping correct the European Union's (EU's) chronic but falling trade deficit with Tokyo.

Mr. Richardson said the list dealt with everything from telecommunications to transport, alcoholic drinks and financial services.

Mr. Richardson, who was briefing journalists on preparations for an EU-Japan ministerial meeting in Tokyo on Nov. 18-20, made several criticisms of the United States as he painted an upbeat picture of Europe's efforts to narrow its trade gap with Japan.

because it engaged in "megaphone" diplomacy under television arc lights whereas the EU preferred quieter dialogue.

Mr. Richardson pointed to the fact that latest Japanese statistics showed the trade gap with the EU narrowing in Brussels's favour whereas the U.S. deficit with Tokyo was still growing.

"We think our approach is at least as effective as the U.S. (approach). We do not believe that threatening trade retaliation is in the long term and across the board a productive way" of doing business, he said.

Such tactics could succeed in a narrow area of trade, but at the cost of provoking a "rejectionist" attitude on a broader front.

Mr. Richardson criticised the United States for purveying "misinformation" about its trade agreements with Japan.

For example, he said Tokyo had denied U.S. assertions that a U.S.-Japan accord on medical technology trade required the Japanese health ministry to urge all

government hospitals to buy more U.S. technology.

Mr. Richardson said latest Japanese figures showed the country's trade surplus with the EU in dollar terms had fallen by 19.5 per cent in the nine months ended September compared with the same period last year. In contrast, its deficit with the United States had gone up by 11.7 per cent.

Mr. Richardson said the strength of the yen was one factor accounting for the recovery of the EU's trade position with Tokyo, but that it should have helped Washington also.

He said the EU list of requests for deregulation was intended to fit in with Japan's announced intention to move in this direction.

He said he hoped the EU and Japan would be able to announce agreement at their ministerial meeting on mutual recognition of certification of product standards. He said EU industry had faced prohibitive costs in complying with Japanese technical standards.

Minister says Russians must get used to taxes

MOSCOW (R) — The notoriously tax-shy Russian public have to accept that part of their income should go straight to the state, Acting Finance Minister Andrei Vavilov said Friday.

Chronic tax evasion by Russian citizens and businesses has left the government with a large budget deficit as it struggles to introduce economic reforms across the giant country.

The finance ministry said last month that Russian tax revenues would be just over half planned levels in 1994, said lower than expected in-

flation, plunging industrial output and poor tax collection methods.

"The obligation to pay taxes takes years to permeate through into peoples' minds," Mr. Vavilov told a news conference.

"And if, as now, the tax police start working more actively and people get used to this, then they will eventually realise they have to pay taxes," he said.

"Some state measures to increase tax incomes have worked, some have yet to show results. But this process cannot be achieved in a day in some cavalier fashion," he

pointed out.

Mr. Vavilov said tax income next year would be between 12 and 14 per cent of gross domestic product, up from the 11 per cent forecast this year. "This is quite realistic. This is a result we can achieve if all the government measures are carried out."

In the former Soviet Union, mainly symbolic income taxes were deducted automatically from salaries. But in the new-look Russia, citizens and businesses are responsible for paying their own taxes.

Study: 38.5% of New York infants born in poverty

NEW YORK (AFP) — Some 600,000, or 38.5 per cent, of New York infants are born into poverty compared to 21.1 per cent for the rest of the country, according to a study.

Community Service Society said the problem has been worsening with some 1.7 million born into poverty in the city, which has 7.2 million inhabitants, compared to 300,000 about 15 years ago.

India launches drive to reduce child labour

NEW DELHI (R) — India plans to pinpoint areas where child labour predominates and set up special offices to monitor schemes geared to get children out of hazardous workplaces and into school, the government said Sunday.

"Surveys are being launched in districts and blocks and industries will be completed in six months," the labour ministry said in a statement.

"All states are to set up child labour authorities and develop a systematic system of reporting to the centre (federal government) on the progress of their programmes," it added.

India, under pressure from Western trading nations in

world trade talks to end child labour, opposes the linking of such social issues to trading curbs, but it is simultaneously taking steps to put its own house in order.

"The process of elimination of child labour from hazardous industries has begun and two million children are to be covered by 2000 A.D.," the statement said.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced the plan to do away with child labour from such industries in his independence day address on Aug. 15.

The children work mainly in the carpet-weaving, gem polishing, safety match making, lock-making, pottery and brassware industries.

Mr. Rao was responding to initiatives which may see child labour among social issues included in the agenda of a soon to be established World Trading Organisation (WTO), which will be charged with implementing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade initiative in April.

A federal government authority charged with tackling the problem of child labour will meet Wednesday under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Purno Sangma to take stock of child labour control programmes, the statement said.

The Indian drive involves educating the working children and providing jobs to parents to enable the poor, who often use their children

as a means of livelihood, have an alternate source of income.

"This is being done through providing extensive education opportunities to the children prone to work in unhealthy and dangerous jobs (with) primary vocational skills, health, nutrition and means of gainful employment for the parents of such children," the statement said.

India has also announced its intention to tighten its law which bans child labour.

India bans employment of children under 14, but the authorities' reach does not extend to agriculture and cottage industries.

The law banning child labour is difficult to implement in a country where child labour is fairly common.

Aristide return sparks fights over jobs in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's public sector faces turmoil as people who lost their jobs under military rule demand them back from the newly restored democratic government.

To make matters worse, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has pledged to cut the 45,000-strong public work force by half in a deeply impoverished country where much of the population is unemployed.

The job shortage was exacerbated under three years of military rule by an international embargo that shut down exports and curtailed other parts of the economy.

As the euphoria over President Aristide's return from exile fades, his government will have difficulties reconcil-

ing high expectations with the realities of the country's gutted economy. That makes the competition for existing jobs potentially volatile.

Reynold Paul, 28, was a baggage handler at the Port-au-Prince airport before the September 1991 coup that ousted President Aristide. Once military authorities seized control of the country he didn't last long.

"They didn't just fire me, they came after me," said Paul. "Three days after the coup, soldiers came to my house looking for me, but I was already in hiding."

He freely acknowledges that his hiring as political as his firing, based on his affiliation with pro-Aristide groups.

Now 40 of the 100 airport employees that Paul estimates lost their jobs are campaigning over local radio to get them back.

At the country's central tax office, Johnson Aristide, 26, no relation to the Haitian president, went to visit the personnel director to demand his job back. He and others had been chased off by armed thugs at the building's entrance after the coup.

The military-appointed tax office personnel director, Leibnitz Bertheau, insists people were never fired for their political affiliations.

"Some were temporary employees, others were incompetent," he said. "All were let go according to normal procedure. If they say

their firings were political, it's because they were sent here to lie."

Confronted by Mr. Johnson Aristide, Mr. Bertheau searched his files, but was unable to find any record of his firing.

But that may not help Mr. Aristide. The bureau's new director, Jean Joseph Daniel, said in a telephone interview his office is overstuffed, cut-backs are inevitable and only employees who meet new and higher standards of education will be reinstated.

One man who expects to lose his job is Thieno Lubin, civil registrar in the southern port town of Jacmel.

"I expect to be fired any day now," he said. "I've been civil registrar for 18 years.

President Aristide named another man to my job without bothering to dismiss me." After the coup, Mr. Lubin got his job back but he believes the end of military rule will mean the end of his job.

The plight of public employees has sparked a lively debate in Haiti's often turbulent political circles.

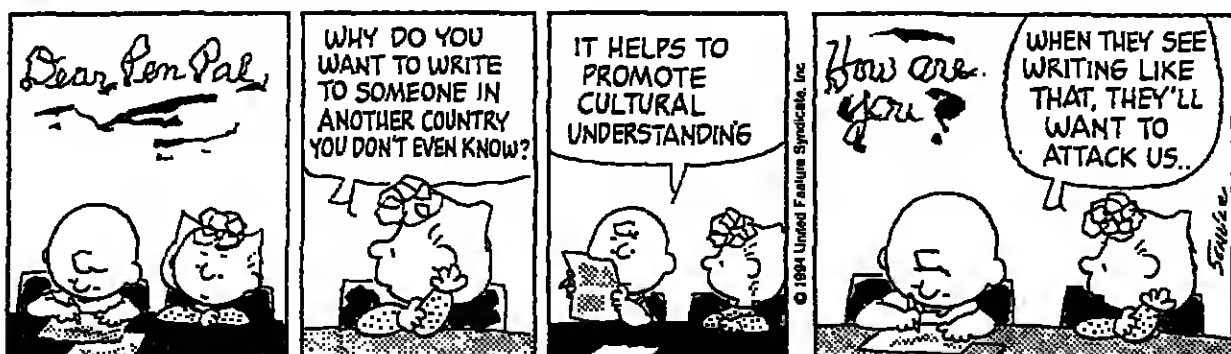
Eddy Virel, head of the pro-Aristide Christian Democratic Assembly, said those fired during the coup deserve their jobs back — and he believes they will get them.

"They were employed by the elected government, and we have assurances that President Aristide will return them to their places," he said.

Iran caviar output to fall

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's caviar production is set to fall for the third year running by around 10 per cent because poaching and pollution are exhausting fish stocks in the Caspian Sea. A fishing official told Kayhan newspaper the production of caviar could fall by another 15 tonnes this year. Iran produced 130 tonnes of caviar in 1993, far below reported figures in previous years of 180 tonnes in 1992 and 200 tonnes in 1991. The production fall has been linked to exhausted resources in the Caspian Sea in northern Iran. Experts have blamed pollution and illegal fishing in Iran and the former Soviet republics bordering the Caspian for the depleted stocks of sturgeon from which caviar is derived.

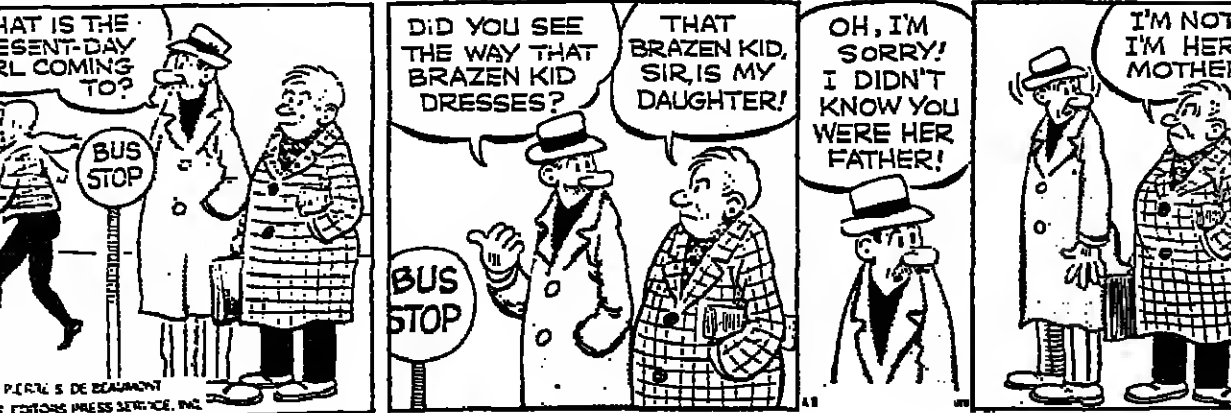
Peanuts



Andy Capp



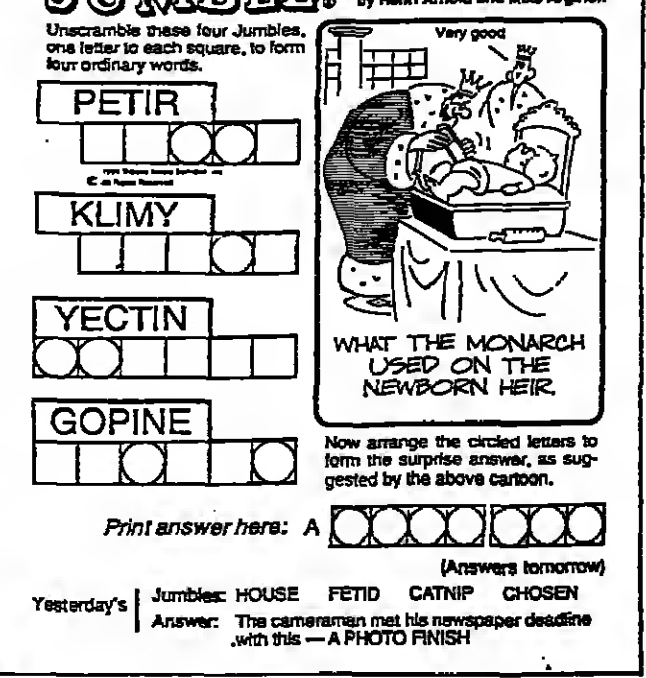
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

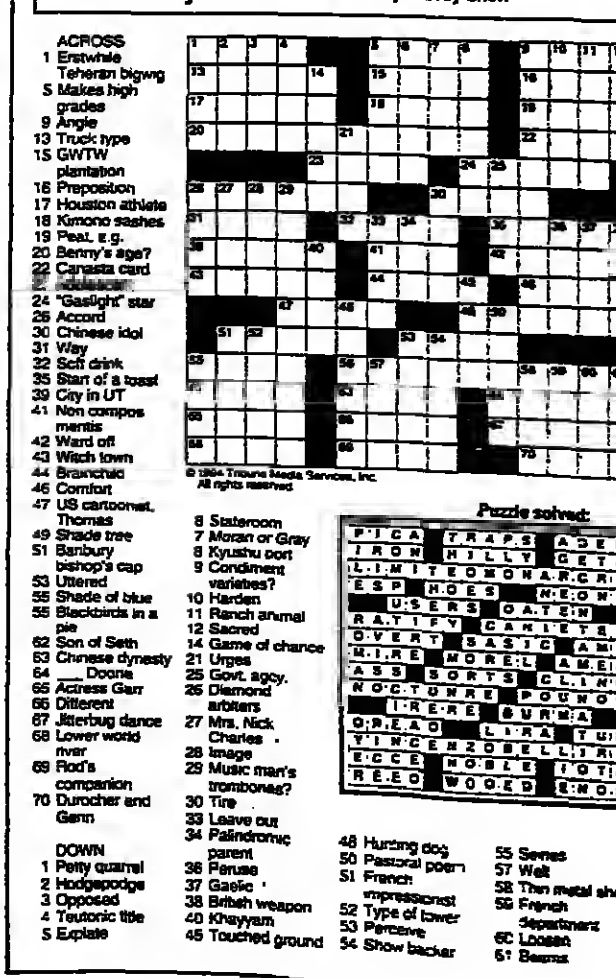


JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chaw



Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary
(October 24 - October 28, 1994)

AMMAN — After closing at 1,5003 mark and 97.24 yen at the end of the previous week, the U.S. unit appreciated against the mark and sterling at the end of last week. It ended 0.64 per cent higher against the mark and 0.12 per cent higher against sterling.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies Monday, influenced by traders' concern that U.S. economic reports due at the end of the week might show possible signs of inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, the U.S. treasury secretary indicated that the U.S. government is ready to intervene in the market to prop the dollar if the dollar continues its depreciation against other major currencies.

While the dollar witnessed moderate appreciation against the mark on Tuesday, it depreciated against other major currencies Wednesday. Earlier Wednesday, the dollar rose slightly against other major currencies after the French economy minister indicated that France is seriously considering the possibility of joint intervention with other central banks to support the dollar. The dollar also benefited from rumours that several central banks might intervene in the market to support the dollar. However, the dollar declined later that day, when these rumours failed to materialise.

On Thursday, the dollar appreciated slightly against other major currencies, while traders refrained from taking new positions on the dollar ahead of U.S. third quarter's gross domestic product report due next day. Analysts indicated that U.S. gross domestic product report will provide a better picture of the U.S. economic activity.

The dollar continued its appreciation against other major currencies at the end of the week. It benefited from U.S. gross domestic product report showing an annualised increase in economic activity for the third quarter by 3.4 per cent, compared to 4.1 per cent for the second quarter. Analysts indicated that the gross domestic product report dampened traders' concerns from U.S. inflationary pressures.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1,5100 marks and 97.28 yen, while sterling ended it at \$1.6240.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	21-10-94	28-10-94	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6240	1.6240	0.0000
Deutsche Mark	1.5003	1.5100	0.6413
Swiss Franc	1.2490	1.2505	0.0119
French Franc	5.1390	5.1805	0.8015
Japanese Yen	97.24	97.28	0.0412

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
Sterling Pound	1.1177	1.1235
Deutsche Mark	0.4588	0.4611
Swiss Franc	0.5451	0.5478
French Franc	0.1332	0.1339
Japanese Yen	0.7088	0.7123
Dutch Guilder	0.4068	0.4088
Swedish Krona	0.0447	0.0449
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	0.0447	0.0449

Arabs fail to show for Israel boycott meeting

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab states appear to have forgotten the Damascus-based office monitoring an economic boycott of Israel.

A meeting due to have taken place Saturday has now been put back for six months because not enough members showed up, general commission officials said.

The last two scheduled biannual meetings also failed to take place for the same reason.

The meetings are held to decide on bans on companies or individuals who violate the boycott rules.

The postponement "means that more companies which are violating the boycott rules could not be added to the black list," one official said.

He did not reveal the number of countries which did not attend the Damascus meeting but said the quorum of 12 representatives out of the 22 Arab countries was not met.

Diplomats say most Arab countries have been ignoring a secondary boycott by having business with companies or individuals who were blacklisted by the boycott commission.

This month's decision by members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to remove the secondary boycott had left the commission with little business to do, one diplomat said.

Saudis explore new ways to finance development

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is exploring new ways to fund its expansion plans after weak oil prices and big Gulf war expenses made it aware it could not keep paying in cash.

Bankers, economists and diplomats say that lower oil prices and paying about \$55 billion to bankroll the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait have changed the way the Saudi economy is run.

They said the government, short of cash even though Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer, is more likely to use export credit facilities, borrow commercially and privatise state-run agencies rather than drain its reserves further.

"The Gulf war shot a hole through that and made them aware they cannot keep paying in cash," said one Western diplomat.

The nature of business is changing and the government is more prone to using export credit and other commercial financing.

"In a sense it is becoming more of a normal economy. It was exceptional that they financed their enormous development simply from their own reserves and cash," he added.

"It is a shift in emphasis and a new way in running the country."

In many cases contractors are being told they have to offer financial as well as technical packages for deals they bid for.

"This has been going on for about a year and is across the board," one banker said.

Businessmen also report that the government, which has slashed spending in its budget by 20 per cent, is chronically behind on payments to contractors and employees in many sectors.

Economists say that even the idea of privatising agencies like the governmental airline Saudia, while it could lessen demands on government finances, might well have to be preceded by major reforms in the way such companies do business.

In the latest sign of Saudi difficulties, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said on Oct. 20 that Saudia's plans to buy \$6-\$7 billion of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas airliners had been delayed by financing problems.

In meetings in Jeddah this month he discussed using U.S. Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank financing for the planes, and Ex-Im officials were due in Saudi Arabia in late October to discuss financing.

Bankers had told Reuters that Ex-Im Bank was seeking a Saudi sovereign guarantee which the kingdom had not given yet.

They said it was quite likely that 85 per cent of the money would be raised through international loans guaranteed by Ex-Im Bank and by Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) if Rolls Royce wins a contract to supply some of the engines.

The bankers and economists however said the interna-

tion banking and financial community takes some comfort from the knowledge that oil will be there for a long time even if the government has a cash flow problem now.

"It is a developing market with huge industrial and infrastructure projects. It poses low risk because oil is a sure source of revenue," one economist said.

"The government has a cash flow problem for the next couple of years. The ministry of finance is looking at alternative ways to finance infrastructure projects they need," he added.

The biggest demand for loans is being made by government agencies like electricity companies and semi-state petrochemical firms, which bankers say will need \$2 billion in the next few months.

"There are discussions going on about export credit for various expansion plans in the electricity sector, but that is still not resolved," one diplomat said.

"They are talking to the Americans and British about export credit on various projects."

The bankers said the Saudi British Bank and Midland Bank were working on a credit export facility by Britain's ECGD for one of the electricity firms.

Diplomats said discussions held by British Prime Minister John Major in Saudi Arabia in September focused on how to finance infrastructure projects through the private sector.

They said it was quite likely that 85 per cent of the money would be raised through international loans guaranteed by Ex-Im Bank and by Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) if Rolls Royce wins a contract to supply some of the engines.

The bankers and economists however said the interna-

tion banking and financial community takes some comfort from the knowledge that oil will be there for a long time even if the government has a cash flow problem now.

"It is a developing market with huge industrial and infrastructure projects. It poses low risk because oil is a sure source of revenue," one economist said.

"The government has a cash flow problem for the next couple of years. The ministry of finance is looking at alternative ways to finance infrastructure projects they need," he added.

The biggest demand for loans is being made by government agencies like electricity companies and semi-state petrochemical firms, which bankers say will need \$2 billion in the next few months.

"There are discussions going on about export credit for various expansion plans in the electricity sector, but that is still not resolved," one diplomat said.

"They are talking to the Americans and British about export credit on various projects."

The bankers said the Saudi British Bank and Midland Bank were working on a credit export facility by Britain's ECGD for one of the electricity firms.

Diplomats said discussions held by British Prime Minister John Major in Saudi Arabia in September focused on how to finance infrastructure projects through the private sector.

Burt Reynolds reported \$2.5 million in debt

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. movie and television star Burt Reynolds has \$2.5 million in debts and will seek court relief, a newspaper has reported.

The New York Post quoted Reynolds lawyer Bob Mont-

gomery in Palm Beach, Florida, as saying he had filed Mr. Reynolds' financial statement with a Florida court because his client "needs breathing room."

According to the Post, nothing remains of \$23 mil-

lion Mr. Reynolds earned during his marriage to actress Lori Anderson, from whom he is divorced.

The daily said Mr. Montgomery would not say whether the actor would file for bankruptcy or argue he

could not pay Ms. Anderson what he agreed to in their divorce settlement.

Mr. Reynolds fell into financial difficulties when he invested in two failed restaurant chains, the Post said.

The actor's credits include the "evening Shade" television comedy and movies such as "Deliverance" and the "Smokey and the Bandit" films.

Arab Gulf states eye technology at Casablanca conference

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states hope the Casablanca economic conference will advance their campaign to acquire technology in return for lifting an indirect trade boycott of Israel.

Foreign and finance ministers as well as businessmen from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are taking part in the three-day conference in the Moroccan city.

GCC foreign ministry undersecretaries met in the Saudi capital last week to coordinate their position at the conference, but they have not disclosed details of their talks.

"We will go to the conference as an effective force that will contribute to chalking out policies so that no unwanted policies or plans will be imposed on us," said the GCC secretary general, Sheikh Fahim Ibn Sultan Al Qassbi.

"The participation by GCC countries illustrates a strong desire to surpass the previous practice of allowing others to draw up strategies and plans for us, while the GCC role was restricted to executing them. We will do our best to benefit from the conference," he emphasised.

"We will participate actively in the conference as it will include important projects. We are very interested in projects that will help our countries in their efforts to diversify their economies," a Gulf official said.

"This is very possible through expanding the non-oil sector. We have managed to build small industries but we need technology for medium and heavy industries. That is what we are looking for now," he pointed out.

The official said contacts on projects and other economic plans to be discussed at the Casablanca conference would continue after the meeting.

This would help the GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — maintain links with several international companies.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

FOR RENT & SALE
Many villas and apartments furnished or unfurnished.
For more details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605/810609/810520
Fax: 810520

JAMAL TRADING & REAL ESTATE CO. FOR RENT
Furnished & unfurnished
Villas & Apartments
Buying & Selling
Land & Property
Tel: 688816-681113

A SECURE FLATOTEL
Sweiffah
Flat O.Tel
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE

TALK OF THE TOWN DISCOTHEQUE
Open nightly
From 9.00 P.M.
Except Tuesday closed
Monday: Drinks All Night Long
Buy One Get Two
A Menu of Delicious Snacks
Tel. 885211 Fax. 617779
Middle East Hotel - Shmeisani

OSCAR'S CLUB GRILL
HAVE YOUR GRILL
CHOOSE YOUR
SAUCE AND
ENJOY A FREE
SALAD BAR
SHMEISANI
TEL. 686140 - 686971
BUSINESS LUNCH
BETWEEN 1-4 P.M.

La Voquette Restaurant
FRENCH CUISINE
ENJOY OUR
NEW MENU
Tel. 686140 - 686971
SEAFOOD
LUNCH DINNER
7 DAYS A WEEK
68009 / 4
Shmeisani - Sweiffah

JR-SAT
Professional Quality in
1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo
size 30% larger
• Free enlargement
20 x 30 cm
WALID JARRAR CO.
Tel. 776199 - 692779
Fax 781681
Service 778299

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in
1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo
size 30% larger
• Free enlargement
20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays
Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweiffah tel: 823891

La Vita Lounge
12:00 pm - v - Late

SZEKHWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 2:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shat Al-Arab Street
Um Uthman Commercial Centre
Tel: 651174
Once Tasted Always Loved

FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas
& Apartments
in Amman
for further details please call
SANABEL REAL ESTATE
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

The Classiest Of The Classiest
Time Out Bar!!
V.V. Cool!!
Tel. 865914

VISA.VIS
Fitted to please
- visa.vis please.
It's fantastic
Open Thursdays
Tunna
144 floor

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our
specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
Air Conditioned Hall

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahlyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
7:00 — Midnight
Tel. 638968

To Suit All Budgets
FURNISHED
UNFURNISHED
VILLAS & LOTS
OF FLATS
FOR RENT
Jordan Property
Consultants
Tel. 829882
Fax. 829883

Milano Restaurant
Pizza
Pasta
Exotic Sandwiches
& Hamburgers
Sit - In
Take - A - way
Home Delivery
Shmeisani - Tel. 680670

Quality Furnished Flats
One and two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For
Short or Long Stay
5th Circle
674563 - 674551

OmniLink HAMZEH GROUP
Deluxe Furnished Offices
• Secretarial Services • Courier Services
• Translation & Interpreting • Facsimile
And many other services
Shmeisani - Hamzeh Center & Marjeh St.
P.O. Box 950121 - Amman 11199 Jordan
Tel. 67940 Fax. 662-619197

SELECT HOTEL
Superior Hotel Services for
Businessmen & Families & its
NeGrEsCo Bar
• Good Drinks &
Excellent Snacks
• Open Noons
& Evenings
Jabal Al Webdeh/Tel. 637101/637102

Clarks
KURDI STORES
Sweiffah Tel. 827105

Bonaly wins Skate America title

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Surya Bonaly, whose acrobatic moves often bring her trouble, capitalised on mistakes by Michelle Kwan and Irina Slutskaya to bolt from third place and win the women's title Saturday night in Skate America International.

Bonaly's off-erratic assortment of soaring triple jumps and gymnast-like leaps boosted her past Kwan, who was again good but not good enough, and the fall-prone Slutskaya, who led after the short programme Friday night.

"I think I am not finished in my career," said Bonaly, the French skater who has had a series of Olympic and world championship disappointments. "I will compete until I get what I deserve. Maybe I will even wait four more years (until the 1998 Olympics)."

Kwan, 14, of the United States, was in position to take her first major international meet, but, skating after Bonaly and before Slutskaya, stepped out of a triple lutz and shortened a triple toe loop into a single to settle for silver.

"(The toe loop) isn't my best jump," Kwan said. "I went into it saying, 'it's going to be a triple, no, a double, no, wait, a triple. What am I doing?'"

The errors dropped her technical scores as low as 5.4, and her presentation scores in the 5.7 range couldn't hold off Bonaly's solid 5.75 and 5.85.

Slutskaya, a 15-year-old Russian skating in only her fifth major international competition, slipped and slid around the three-quarters empty civic arena, falling on four jumps, including two triples in the same vexatious corner.

Bonaly overcame a disconcerting 10-minute delay before the short programme due to technical problems and her own recent indecision whether to turn pro.

As late as three weeks ago, Bonaly was ready to turn pro.

only to change her mind. "I was getting all these calls telling me what I should do," she said. "I'm sure it is better now that I stayed."

Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow, given a rare restart after a strap on Swallow's skate came undone, easily won the dance competition with a technically strong if not spectacular programme.

The couple could have picked up from the point they were interrupted, but, just like Tonya Harding at the Olympics, chose to restart and skated without mishap after that.

"The referee was frantically trying to get the music to stop, but Liz didn't know what was going on and her eyes real big when the music went off," said Swallow, who married his partner a year ago.

The Americans, only 15th in the Olympics, were already solidly in the lead over runners Marina Anisina and Gwendal Peizerat of France following the compulsory and original dance programmes. Elizaveta Stekolnikova and Dmitri Kazarliga, who are from Kazakhstan but train in Lake Placid, were third.

The winners' technical and artistic marks were mostly 5.6s.

Earlier, Todd Eldredge withstood a strong free skating programme by Philippe Candeloro of France to win the men's title and the Russian team of Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov, the 1993 European champions, took the pairs.

Eldredge skated his new long programme to music from the movie "Gettysburg" and recovered from a fall on his first jump. He got no score lower than 5.7 for technical merit or presentation.

The 1990-91 U.S. champion, Eldredge also defeated Candeloro in the short programme on Thursday. Eldredge, who failed to win a medal in the 1992 Olympics due to injury, started his



Surya Bonaly

comeback with a second-place finish at this year's Goodwill Games.

Candeloro, dressed entirely in black, skated to music from the movie "The God-

father," the same routine that won him the bronze medal at the Lillehammer Olympics. His ponytail bobbing along with his every move, he played to the

cameras and the small crowd of about 4,000 in the 17,323-seat Civic Arena.

Candeloro, who stumbled once, even blew a kiss to the judges at one point.

Boxer Young wins junior title

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Leo Young maintained his unbeaten record and won the vacant Commonwealth junior middleweight boxing title Sunday with a disputed 12-round majority points decision over Canadian Fitzgerald Bruney.

Young, the Australian national champion, scored his 12th successive victory as a professional. Two judges scored the contest 115-113 and 116-112 in his favour, while the third had it a draw at 114-114.

"I'm very disappointed with the decision," said Bruney. "I thought I won the fight. I'd love to fight him again."

Young's aggression proved decisive. He continually looked to take the initiative, stalking the tall, rangy Bruney and working impressively to body.

The 28-year-old Canadian finished strongly and his awkward style kept Young off balance for much of the contest.

Bruney's record dipped to 12-5.

Young, 25, said he was hopeful he had done enough to win the fight — in which there were no knockdowns — but was nervous before the decision was announced.

"I thought it was very close, and to be honest I wasn't sure which way it would go," he said.

"Bruney was a good counter-puncher — a much better fighter than people said he would be. He was quick and he could certainly hit."

Young said his work inside had given him the edge.

Chinese man, woman win Beijing Marathon

BEIJING (R) — Chinese won both the men's and women's events in the 14th Beijing Marathon Sunday despite having competed in the Hiroshima Asian Games this month.

Hu Gangjinn won the men's event for the second successive year in a time of two hours, 10 minutes and 56 seconds.

Second was event record-holder Abebe Mekonen, of Ethiopia, in 2:11:33, who led the race until the 35-km (22-mile) mark, and third was Mohammad Nazipov, of Russia, in 2:11:35.

Hu's time was one second better than his winning time a year ago.

"I am happy with the time," he told reporters. He finished fourth in the Asian Games marathon.

"For two months before the Asian Games, I did not train too hard in order to conserve my energy for these two events," he said.

Asked how China's male runners could match the record-breaking achievements of their female compatriots, Hu said they must learn from the methods of top trainer

Ma Juren.

"We must learn to suffer and bear hardship. I am confident China's male runners will become best in the world," Hu said.

The winner of the women's marathon was Wang Junmei, one of the athletes trained by Ma. She told reporters she was content with the result given the race followed the Hiroshima event so soon.

Her time was three minutes and 21 seconds slower than the record set by Mekonen in the event in 1988.

Officials said this was due to a relatively warm temperature of 16 degrees Celsius (60 Fahrenheit). Conditions were otherwise perfect with almost no wind under a cloudless sky.

The runners set out from the Workers Stadium in northeast Beijing for the circuit round the centre of the city.

Over 300 runners from 10 countries and regions took part in the race, but Japanese runners, who have traditionally done well in this event, were absent.

Britain's Fogarty wins world superbike title

PHILIP ISLAND, Australia (R) — Britain's Carl Fogarty clinched the world superbike title in the final round Sunday when defending champion Scott Russell suffered a tyre blow-out in the second race.

Fogarty won the rain-delayed first race on his Ducati, breaking the lap record in the process. American Russell was second despite a falling front tyre.

Russell went into the second race knowing he had to win it and Fogarty finish lower than fourth for him to

hang on to his crown. He led early on but when his rear tyre "tore apart," forcing him into the pits, the championship was effectively handed to Fogarty.

"I thought it was odd when Scott waved me by," said Fogarty. "Then I got the signal that he was in the pits and I knew we had the championship."

Fogarty, runner-up to Australian Anthony Gobert in the second race, finished the championship with 305 points, 25 ahead of Kawasaki rider Russell.

Lack of wind scuttles race

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — A lack of wind scuttled the second race of the International America's Cup Class World Championship regatta here Saturday. Officials delayed the start two hours, hoping winds would rise above four knots. When they did not, the race was abandoned. No makeup date was immediately set for the second race in the five-race series. Exhibition races were scheduled Sunday with an off day Monday before the next Tuesday and Wednesday. The event is a tuneup for next year's America's Cup races here. John Bertrand's One Australia won the opening race Friday with the all-female crew of America3 second. Others in the field include two Nippon Challenge vessels, Nippon 92 and Nippon 94, U.S. defender hopefuls Stars and Stripes and PACT 95 and the Age of Russia boat aiming for the 1998 America's Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAN HIRSCH
©1993 Taurus Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ73 ♣KJ4 ♢KQ84
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Had you been sitting in the immediate seat, on action could have been contemplated. Here, however, you know that partner has some values, so you must protect. Bid one no trump—in the balancing position that promises only some 12-15 points.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10762 ♣A854 ♢Q9 ♠A4
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—There's no reason in looking for a second trump suit. You've located an excellent spot and it's your duty to advise partner of it. Make whatever forcing raise you have in your arsenal, which would be a jump to three hearts in standard methods.
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ6 ♣A10943 ♢763 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's cue-bid could indicate a heart fit and slam interest, or it might simply be an effort to get to the right game contract. Since you have nothing in diamonds and only so-so hearts, show the location of your outside values by bidding three spades.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ ♣A10943 ♢763 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—We are avid advocates of raising partner's major-suit response with three-card support, but not with this holding. You have a balanced minimum with a stopper in every suit and a rebid of one no trump describes it perfectly.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ2 ♣A83 ♢QJ2 ♠A952
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—We are avid advocates of raising partner's major-suit response with three-card support, but not with this holding. You have a balanced minimum with a stopper in every suit and a rebid of one no trump describes it perfectly.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ10 ♣5 ♢K9753 ♠A64
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—You know you have a combined high-card count of about 30, so four no trump must be a safe spot if you have no fit. Since your hand is all prime, we favor a slam try of four clubs, postponing your heart shortness, to see how partner reacts.

Top Olympic ratings spawn year-round competitions

NEW YORK (AP) — For decades, a heavy schedule for a figure skater meant four events, perhaps five in an Olympic year. In the new world wrought by Tonya vs. Nancy and soaring television ratings, Brian Boitano will compete in six events before he even begins touring in his ice show.

And Boitano won't even be the busiest competitor. Kurt Browning, Viktor Petrenko and Paul Wylie all have more events on their schedules.

Suddenly, figure skating has taken on the look of tennis, with competitions springing up throughout the United States, Europe and the Orient for big purses. And with lots of television coverage.

"This is a natural progression of the sport," said 1994 Olympic champion Scott Hamilton, who will skate in a few events when he isn't doing analysis for CBS. "It all stems from the popularity our sport has gained. We've never had this kind of support."

The dividing line between amateurs and professionals virtually has been erased. The Olympics were the first sign of that, with the remaining amateurs sweeping the individual medals. Now, with corporate sponsorship and television backing, the big-name pros such as Boitano, Petrenko, Kristi Yamaguchi and Katarina Witt don't need the Olympic seal of approval.

"This is the next step for skating," said Browning, the four-time world champion from Canada. "You'll probably see even more competitions each year, leading up to the next Olympics."

Thanks, greatly, to the last Olympics, of course. The Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan saga drew incredible ratings for CBS. The women's technical programme and women's final at Lillehammer rank as the fourth and sixth most-watched television programmes of all time.

"It's important that we take advantage of this popularity," Browning said. "The more skating events with top names, the more accepted those competitions will become."

So Browning will be all over the place, from Long Island to Massachusetts to Ontario to Landover, Md., for the world professional championships, one of the few established pro skating events. Wylie, Boitano, Yamaguchi, Witt, current world champion Yuka Sato and most of the top pairs and ice dancers will be just as busy.

"Don't forget that we're all in tours and shows, too," adds Hamilton, whose stars on ice tour, with strong financial backing from Discover card, has Witt, Yamaguchi, Wylie, Browning, and two-time Olympic pairs champions Gordeeva and Grinkov. "We're going to be skating fools."



Tonya Harding

There has been some silliness concerning the enhanced pro tour and its reception by the skating establishment. In France, for instance, the sponsors of the L'Alouette Trophée decided they wanted the professionals, which meant splitting with the French federation. So the federation, which is paying French stars Surya Bonaly and Philippe Candeloro to remain amateurs, is staging its own event on the same weekend as L'Alouette.

Hamilton chuckles at such policies. But he does like the idea of nationalistic team competitions — on the current schedule, there are two, with several others being contemplated.

"Seeing this format come

back in this way is, I think, extremely exciting because of the strength of figure skating around the world," he said. "Years ago, team competitions were normal in professional skating."

"I think this would be a wonderful thing to have at the Olympics. We have the Ryder Cup in golf, the Davis Cup in tennis. This is an opportunity to see skating in a different light."

"Look at Kurt and Viktor. They have been rivals for years, one and two in the world. To see them training together and competing as teammates is awesome. It's intimidating."

It's the new world of skating.



Nancy Kerrigan

FOR RENT

Three-bedroom first floor fully furnished flat in Fourth Circle with full kitchen utensils and telephone and television.

Call 612721 to enquire

FOR SALE

180 power book Apple Macintosh (not used). Arabic and English. Included software, Excel, Al Nashir Adobi and more. Also it comes with its own case. Please call 672589 between 5-9 p.m.

FLAT FOR RENT

In a new building, with a 185-square-metre area, consisting of 3 bedrooms, spacious salons. Located at 7th Circle, start of the Queen Alia Airport Highway, opposite the Modern Education Schools. Annual rent JD4500

Call tel: 864704

FOR RENT

New deluxe furnished apartment for rent (ideal for a small family)

Two bedrooms, salon, dining room, small garden, separate kitchen, heating, garage, utilities. Between 4th circle and Mecca Street.

Call: 817224 - 623709

FOR RENT

Big villa, 1200m², in a decent area, on 2 streets, Shmeisani, near King Abdullah Gardens.

Consists of: 6 bedrooms, including one master bedroom, 6 wide salons, 7 bathrooms, 3 kitchens, decorated, 3 large verandas, 1 service room.

A wide garage, 200m² area, can accommodate 6 cars + 3 outdoors, 3 garden gides planted with trees. Heating system.

We accept best offer

Interested call 690900 Mr. Mohammed

from 10:00 a.m. to 14:00 p.m.

Soft Programmers Needed

An Info Tech Co. in the Arabian Gulf has immediate vacancies for Software Programmers with considerable experience in 4 GL Windows-based programming languages.

Please send your resume detailing your technical experience to the attention of:-

Managing Director
Fax: 691212
P.O.Box 5431
Amman - Jordan

WANTED

Executive secretary required for busy office, involving public relations and some travel. Must have at least five years experience, university degree and an excellent command of English. Should also be computer literate. Please fax CV's to 816894. (Any CV not meeting the above mentioned requirements will not be considered).

TODAY
Naked G...
The Fin...

Becker wins in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (R) — A strong and alert Boris Becker outwitted Goran Ivanisevic to win the Stockholm tennis tournament Sunday and also earn himself a place in next month's ATP finals in Frankfurt.

Becker, a few weeks from his 27th birthday, recovered from a poor start to overpower the mighty Croat with guile and cunning to win 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6 (7-4).

The German's stupendous backhand passing shots and finely-judged volleys completed a phenomenal run of games which have seen him beat the top three players in the world in as many days.

"I've been playing a long time in tennis and I can't remember playing so well three days in a row. It has never happened that I've beaten the world top three in three days," a jubilant Becker said.

The win also assures him promotion in the world rankings, possibly up to third place from sixth.

In a punishing final duel, world number two Ivanisevic relied mainly on his powerful serve and return of serve, while his ground shots and attempted passing shots frequently went into the net in the first hour.

Though he lost the first set, Becker made a vital break in the 10th game of the second



Boris Becker

with brilliantly-placed and unstoppable returns of serve to draw him level.

After that he shifted up a gear.

It was Becker's fourth Stockholm title, adding this year's \$244,000 prize money to victories in 1988, 1990 and 1991.

Pierce's banned father watches from stands

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Mary Pierce's controversial father, banned from all WTA events for past disturbances, watched from the stands as his daughter played here Saturday at the Chris Evert Pro-Celebrity Classic.

Jim Pierce purchased a ticket and waited in vain for a players' walkway at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in hopes of speaking with his daughter, whom he once coached.

"I don't want to put any pressure on Mary," he said.

"I have no problems with Mary. It's her mother who got the restraining order." Pierce was banned from WTA events in May 1993 when he was escorted out of the Roland Garros Stadium for disruptive behavior during the French Open.

His 19-year-old daughter, currently ranked sixth in the world, was a French Open finalist this year, but withdrew from Wimbledon at the eleventh hour under intense media pressure after a tabloid newspaper threatened to dis-

guise and smuggle her father into the All England Club. She completed a second exhibition set after being told of her father's presence, then signed some autographs before being taken off the tournament grounds through a back exit without comment.

Jim Pierce was 100 yards away from his daughter as she left, but he was surrounded by police officers and security guards who escorted him to a shuttle bus and later went with him to his car.

Baggio's goal drops AC Milan

ROME (AP) — Striker Roberto Baggio's 45th-minute goal lifted Juventus of Turin to a 1-0 win over visiting AC Milan Sunday, dropping the three-time defending champions into 11th place in the 18-team Italian first division.

The defeat made Milan's record to 3-2-3. They lost three games all last season.

Lazio of Rome edged lowly Cremonese 1-0 on Italian international Pier Luigi Casiraghi's second-half goal. Lazio and Juve both have 5-2-1 records for 17 points.

AC Parma (16 points) was to host AS Roma (15) in a late game. The winner would move into first, but a draw would leave Lazio in first place on goal differential. Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta scored for the eighth straight game, with his league-leading ninth goal of the season, helping Fiorentina beat winless Brescia 4-2. Fiorentina (4-3-1) stayed in fifth place with 15 points.

In other games Sunday: Bari beat Genoa 4-1; Sampdoria of Genoa and Napoli drew 0-0; Internazionale of Milan edged last-place Reggina 1-0; Cagliari beat Torino 1-0; and Padova and Foggia tied 0-0.

At Turin, Baggio continued his impressive comeback from injury, scoring for the second straight week. The 1993 FIFA player of the year headed home a cross from close range on the stroke of halftime.

The score came three minutes after Juve keeper Angelo Peruzzi made an acrobatic save to thwart Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Boban on Milan's best scoring opportunity. The red-and-black were shut out for the third consecutive week. Lazio 1, Cremonese 0.

At Rome, a header by half-time substitute Casiraghi in the 73rd minute allowed Lazio to squeak past 15th-place Cremonese in an evenly played match. He turned in a headed assist by Croatian striker Alen Boksic for his second goal of the season. Brescia 2, Fiorentina 0.

At Brescia, Batistuta's header put Fiorentina ahead in the 31st minute and midfielder Fabrizio di Mauro doubled 10 minutes later on a 20-metre blast that found the net off the crossbar.

After forward Francesco Flachi added his first league

goal in the 61st minute for 3-0, a wild sequence saw three scores in seven minutes.

Brescia striker Fabio Gallo scored in the 70th, Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa turned in a Batistuta feed for Fiorentina's fourth in the 76th, and substitute Gabriele Ambrosini tallied for Brescia (0-2-6) one minute later. Bari 4, Genoa 1.

At Bari, striker Igor Protti scored his first two goals in the first division and Sandro Tovalieri added the other two to move the promoted home side into seventh place at 4-1-3.

After Protti scored from close range in the seventh minute, Tovalieri doubled two minutes later on a counterattack. Protti added his second in the 56th, and Tovalieri scored his fourth of the season in the second minute of injury time.

Dutch winger John Van't Schip, a half-time substitute, scored for Genoa (2-2-4) in the 61st minute.

Sampdoria 0, Napoli 0.

At Genoa, a lack of offensive creativity doomed both sides to a scoreless draw. Napoli striker Renato Buso bit a post in the 41st minute, and Samp veteran Roberto Mancini suffered the same fate in the second half. Samp (3-3-2), third last season, fell to eighth place, while Napoli (2-3-3) moved into 13th. Internazionale 1, Reggina 0.

At Milan, striker Marco del Vecchio's goal one minute from time allowed Inter (3-3-2) to beat last-place Reggina (0-1-7). The hosts controlled the action, but Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp — playing for injured Uruguayan Ruben Sosa — continued his run of ineffective outings and was substituted in the second half.

Cagliari 1, Torino 0.

At Cagliari, Panamanian striker Julio Cesar del Valdes scored three minutes after kickoff as the Sardinians (3-3-2) moved past Torino (3-1-4) in the standings. Padova 0, Foggia 0.

At Padova, the hosts (1-2-5) blew an opportunity to win in the 75th minute, when veteran striker Giuseppe Galderisi sent a penalty kick off the crossbar. Foggia (3-4-1) was unable to score against the first division's worst defence, which has allowed 19 goals.

Faisali targets record 8th Jordan Cup title

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

ANMAN — Al Faisali will be aiming to win their record eighth Jordan Cup title when the competition kicks off Nov. 13 with 28 teams representing first and second division clubs taking part.

The Jordan Cup is the fourth annual competition organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) in addition to the first division, the Cup Winner's Cup and the Federation Shield. The competing clubs have been divided into two groups which will play three elimination rounds.

The top two teams in each group will play a semi-final two-leg round to determine the teams that will advance to the final match.

Group 1 includes three top first division teams like titleholders Al Faisali, Al Hussein, Al Wihdat, in addition to Al Jazireh, Al Qadissieh, Al Karmel who will meet less experienced second division teams like Al Russeifa, Al Zarga, Al Salt, Al Qozazi, Al Fuheis, Al Sarih, Sahm and Al Yarmouk.

The second group includes Al Ramtha, Al Ahli,

Al Jeel, Al Arabi, Kufroum and Shabab Al Hussein, in addition to second division teams Sahab, Al Jalil, Al Baqaa, Ein Karem, Al Abbasi, Ja'far, Al Tayyar, Al Awdah and Irtad Al Ramtha.

Only five teams have won the title since the competition was initiated in 1980: Al Faisali have clinched the title seven times, Al Wihdat three times, Al Ramtha twice, and Al Jazireh and Al Arabi once each.

Al Faisali, Al Wihdat, Al Hussein and Al Ramtha are all strong contenders for the title.

Although Al Faisali, who have won the 1st division title for the past two years have had an inconsistent form this season, they still group the kingdom's top players and are very keen to add another title to their long list of achievements in all competitions. In 1993 they clinched the first division, the Jordan Cup and the Cup Winner's Cup, and in 1992 they won the Jordan Cup, the Shield and the first division.

Al Hussein who had not won a title for years, won their first ever major title this year when they defe-

ated Al Faisali to win the Federation Shield. Their only other best achievement was finishing second in the first division in 1990 and 1992.

Al Wihdat last won a major title in 1992 when they clinched the Cup Winner's Cup. They last won the 1st division in 1991.

Al Ramtha won the Jordan Cup in 1990 and 1991 and last won the Federation Shield in 1993.

Other teams may however surprise the top contenders, the most likely being Al Jazireh, a team often threatened by relegation but now maintain fifth place on goal difference with Al Faisali and Al Ramtha in the 1st division competition now underway.

Jordan Cup record

1980	Faisali
1981	Faisali
1982	Wihdat
1983	Faisali
1984	Jazireh
1985	Wihdat
1986	Arabi
1987	Faisali
1988	Wihdat
1989	Faisali
1990	Ramtha
1991	Ramtha
1992	Faisali
1993	Faisali

Kenyans triumph in Tulsa

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP)

Kenya's Stephen Nyamu surged past American rival Mbarak Hussein in the final 100 metres to win the 15km Tulsa Run here Saturday. Nyamu, who trains in Pennsylvania but who had never raced in a U.S. event, won in 42mins 51secs. He beat Hussein by three seconds and broke the course record of 43:09 set in 1989. "The pace was very fast but it was working for me," Nyamu said. "I was struggling. That last kilometre I felt a little pain. But I had no alternative." Kenya's Delillah Asigao won the women's crown in 48:57, one minute ahead of 1993 champion Lynn Jennings. Asigao started cautiously before taking command in the final 10km.

Greece to host world basketball championship

BONN, Germany (AP) — Yugoslavia lost out to Greece Sunday as host nation for the 1998 men's Basketball World Championship, the FIBA international basketball organising body announced.

The central board of FIBA, after a meeting in Munich, also said it had chosen Germany over Poland to host the women's 1998 world championship.

In a telefaxed statement making the announcements, the 15-member board did not mention the bloodshed in the Balkans.

Yugoslavia was supposed to host the men's 1994 world championships. But when the Balkan wars erupted and international sanctions were slapped on Serbia and Montenegro, which make up the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FIBA moved this year's championship to Toronto, Canada.

The United States' Dream

Team II won the world title this year.

FIBA President George Kilian said Greece was chosen because it is "experienced in organising international basketball events. They are also one of the leading basketball forces in Europe."

George Vassilakopoulos, a Greek member of FIBA's central board, said "we are happy and proud to host the FIBA championship."

He said "after organising the European championship for men and the world championship for junior men in the summer of next year, we will be continuing our long tradition of hosting high profile basketball events."

The August 1994 men's finals will be played in Athens' new Olympic Hall, which has a seating capacity of 20,000, and in the Peace and Friendship Arena in Piraeus.

Williams, 14-year-old prodigy, makes pro tennis debut

OAKLAND, California (R) — Venus Williams, a 14-year-old tennis prodigy, makes her professional debut this week, reopening a controversy over whether girls at her age are old enough to cope with the intense pressure of the tennis circuit.

Williams launches her pro career Monday night with a first-round match against fellow American Shanon Stanford, ranked 59 in the world, a \$400,000 Bank of the West Classic in Oakland, California.

Although Williams has not played in even a junior tournament for the last three years and is something of an unknown quantity, her coach believes she has the ability to reach the top within a few years.

"I think that by the time Venus is 16, she'll probably be able to compete with anybody in the world. By the time she's 18, I think she'll be right in there for Grand Slam titles," coach Rick Macci said.

The tall, thin Williams showed off her skills to admiring teenagers at an Oakland tennis court last week, grunting as she hit powerful forehands and double-fisted backhands.

"You can expect me to be serve-and-volley, you can expect me to be the aggressor, and you can expect me to go out there and play well," Williams, who turned 14 in June, told reporters.

Williams and her European counterpart, 14-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland, who made her pro debut in Zurich this month, are likely to be the last two 14-year-old girls to play top-class tennis for the foreseeable future.

The women's tennis coun-

cil decided last month to exclude 14-year-olds from the adult tour from next year and restrict the number of events girls between 15 and 17 can take part in.

But by making their debuts this year, Williams and Hingis will continue to be bound by the current rules which permit players to compete in 12 tour events per season when they are 14 and to compete without restriction at age 16.

Tennis players and administrators have voiced growing doubts over whether 14-year-old girls are able to cope with the stress of professional tennis, the pressures of fame and wealth and the loss of a normal childhood.

Women's tennis has had a number of players, such as Andrea Jaeger, who shot to stardom as teenagers and were burned out by the time they were 20.

Endorsements had made Jennifer Capriati a millionaire by the time she turned professional in 1990 at the age of 13. She dropped off the women's Tour a year ago and has since been cited for shoplifting, arrested for marijuana possession and spent time in a treatment programme.

"If I had a child, I probably wouldn't want her playing on the tour," tennis legend Martina Navratilova said recently.

But Williams, who appears confident and mature beyond her years, is not worried that other people wonder whether she is old enough to stand the pressure.

"I'm very happy that they have their opinion ... I also have my own opinion and I think it's about time for me to go out and play professional," she said last week.

Williams says she has learned from other players' mistakes. "Of course maybe I'll make a few, but I don't think they'll be major mistakes," she said.

Williams believes she can handle the pressure. Asked what would happen if she had a match point against Navratilova, who is also playing in Oakland, Williams said: "I'm definitely not going to choke."

Just a few months ago, Williams' father Richard said any parent who allowed his children to play professional tennis at 14 should be shot.

Williams, 52, said last week that it was his daughter's decision to turn professional and he was initially against the idea. But he said he did not try to talk her out of it because he had taught his five daughters to make their own decisions.

Her family say Venus Williams will play no more than five or six tournaments next year.

"So it wouldn't change our lifestyle," Richard Williams said. "She'll go to the beach, she'll rollerskate, she'll keep playing basketball ... she does so many things other than tennis. But if tennis were the only thing she would do, I would be very frightened for my 14-year-old daughter."

Williams was brought up in the tough Los Angeles suburb of Compton and began playing tennis at age four. She moved with her family to Pompano Beach, Florida, three years ago so that prospect, could train at the Rick Macci Tennis Academy.

Williams trains five or six hours a day and receives her schooling from her mother at home.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

FEB MASTER BUILDERS CONCRETE IN SPACE

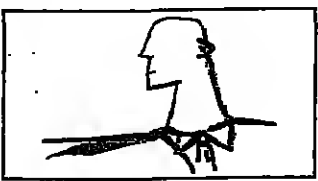
On 30th September 1994 (local time 07:15) the space shuttle endeavour blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida carrying, for the first time ever, a small concrete test laboratory on board. Scientists are hoping that the absence of gravity will enable them to discover ways for improving the strength and durability of concrete. The shuttle landed on 11th October 1994 and the results are now eagerly awaited within the industry.

The experiment was initiated and is sponsored by Master Builders Inc. Cleveland (Ohio) and the University of Alabama Huntsville. Master Builders Inc. is the market leader in the field of construction chemicals in the U.S.A. and is an affiliated company of MBT holding og, Zurich (the chemicals and environment division of Sandoz Ltd.) Feb Middle East in Sharjah, is the regional office for the group.

The local agent in Jordan
F.A. KETTANEH & Co. LTD.
Tel. 798642
Fax.. 792582



RIHANI
ELEGANCE OF A MAN



WELCOME TO

RIHANI JABAL AMMAN RAINBOW ST.
RIHANI GARDENS ST.
RIHANI DOWN TOWN KING HUSSEIN ST.
RIHANI IRBED WASFI AL TAL ST.

	Cinema	Cinema	Cinema			
	Tel.: 634144	Tel.: 699238	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Leslie Nielsen & Priscilla Presley in Naked Gun 33 1/3 The Final Insult	Jeff Fahey - Teri Polo Robert Davi in QUICK	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" PELICAN BRIEF Shows: 3:15, 5:00	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG" Theater close Sunday and Monday	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

Israel welcomes Hrawi call for joint committee, wants Syrian support

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer on Sunday welcomed a Lebanese proposal to establish a joint political and military committee with Israel, but said the move needed Syrian backing to be significant.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi told the Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) this weekend that the proposed committee would draw up a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

"I pledge that not one single bullet would be fired during this period if Israel commits itself to a withdrawal," Mr. Hrawi said. He made a similar proposal three years ago.

On Saturday he did not mention how he would silence Hizbollah's guerrillas, who have refused to disarm under the peace accord that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

The group, largely financed by Iran, said they needed their weapons to liberate South Lebanon controlled by Israeli troops. Israel has maintained control of a border strip since its 1982 invasion.

"First of all, I must welcome the invitation, we can't reject it out of hand," said Mr. Ben-Eliezer.

"The proposal is completely insignificant unless Syria backs it," he said.

Israel has said it will only pull out when Syria withdraws its 40,000 troops it maintains in Lebanon. Israeli reports say that a withdrawal from Lebanon will come as part of a peace treaty with

Syria.

Presently Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations are stalled over the future of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Hrawi's offer came a day after the president was briefed on the telephone by his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad on his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Damascus on Thursday.

Mr. Hrawi said the Lebanese army was ready to take charge of the "security zone" that Israel maintains in South Lebanon and restore order, so long as Israel implemented U.N. Resolution 425 which calls for its troops to withdraw.

Lebanese officials have in the past expressed backing for the anti-Israeli resistance, saying it would not exist if the Israelis withdrew to their own side of the border.

Mr. Hrawi said "the time has come for Israel, which states that it has no ambitions on Lebanon's territory or water, to carry out its words."

An Israeli government spokesman also said Syria must be involved in the Lebanese proposal.

"We will give it the most serious consideration," Uri Dromi, head of Israel's government press office, told Reuters. "If the Lebanese army and government are willing to take over security there, then this is a very good development."

"Maybe the most important thing (is) that all this is coordinated with the Syrians, because we know perfectly well that they call the shots in Lebanon," Mr. Dromi said.

Israel also wanted assurances that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia would not be "negatively affected" — an apparent reference to previous Israeli demands that its client army should be incorporated into the Lebanese military.

Israel set up a 13-kilometre wide buffer strip in Lebanon in 1985 when it withdrew the bulk of its 1982 invasion forces. It says the "security zone" is to prevent guerrilla attacks on northern Israeli settlements.

Israel has repeatedly demanded that Lebanon, with Syria's help, disband Hizbollah and establish calm on the border for six months before it will negotiate a peace accord with Lebanon.

Hizbollah guerrillas launched two attacks in South Lebanon on Sunday, wounding two members of the SLA, Lebanese security sources said. On Saturday, Hizbollah fighters killed an Israeli soldier in clashes on the edge of the occupation zone.

A roadside bomb exploded near an SLA militia patrol in the village of Rsfaf inside the "Security Zone," wounding two militiamen, the sources said.

Another SLA patrol came under a hail of machinegun and anti-tank fire in the Tounat Jezzine area in a finger of territory jutting north of the zone but under Israeli control.

No one was hurt in the second attack on the SLA. Responding to the attacks, Israeli and SLA gunners fired artillery rounds onto the outskirts of the market town of Nabatiyeh and Iqlim Al Toufah ridge, a rugged

area in the north of the zone.

Israel has already transferred education on the West Bank to the self-rule Palestinian authority.

But the prime minister warned that the agreement on early empowerment would mean nothing without funds from international donors.

The agreement has been reached between us and the Palestinians. But it has to be signed and committed by the donors because they have to generate this early empowerment to become reality."

Mr. Arafat made no comment coming out of the villa in a posh, hilly district of Casablanca, marching directly into his Mercedes Benz limousine.

But Yasser Abed Rabbo, Mr. Arafat's minister of culture and information, said the closure policy should be lifted immediately and completely "because collective punishment is not a policy that will be helpful for creating an atmosphere of trust between the two nations."

He said he did not understand Israel's decision to seal off the Palestinians from their livelihoods. "We don't think there is a reason for that in spite of the incidents that have occurred," he said. "We can cooperate, but not to punish a whole people and to punish tens of thousands of workers who have nothing to do with such incidents."

Asked whether the PLO would strengthen its efforts to rein in Hamas, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, "I'm not talking about stopping or not stopping. We are doing our best on the security level in accordance with law and our obligations."

"We hope the other side will respect the obligations, the transfer of authority and the extension of Palestinian authority to the West Bank," he added.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat met shortly before Morocco's King Hassan was to open the largest ever gathering of businessmen and economic officials seeking to tap the huge potential of the Middle East and North Africa.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who took part in the Rabin-Arafat meeting, linked economic cooperation to the peace process saying: "Without economic cooperation... there is no validity to the peace for the man in street in Amman or in Gaza."

Meanwhile the fifth round of PLO-Israeli talks on Palestinian elections has been postponed until Nov. 6, a Palestinian official said in Cairo on Sunday.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.



BIZARRE ATTACK: A window in the White House briefing room is covered with police evidence tape as White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and Richard Griffin of the U.S. Secret Service (rear) brief reporters after a gunman sprayed

the west wing of the building, including the briefing room, with rounds from a semiautomatic weapon on Saturday (see page 5) (AFP photo)

Israel to lift Gaza siege slowly

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — Israel will begin reopening border crossings with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday. But he promised to do "whatever needed" to contain violence by Palestinian militants.

The Gaza Strip, from which 30,000 Palestinian labourers enter Israel daily to work, was closed after a bus bombing Oct. 19 that killed 22 people.

Mr. Rabin met for an hour with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat before the opening of an economic summit on the Middle East aimed at promoting economic development in the region to further the peace process.

It was their first meeting since the Oct. 19 bombing and last week's signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, which Mr. Arafat has strongly criticised.

"I informed Chairman Arafat that starting Tuesday, two days from today, we gradually will lift the closure," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

The Palestinians, however, demanded a complete and immediate reopening of the Gaza crossings.

Mr. Rabin also told the PLO leader that Palestinian officers will be allowed to take up positions at two border crossings, the King Hussein Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank, and the Rafah crossings between

Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian officers are expected to take up their positions on the crossings Monday.

He said the two decided they would hold talks again in a week to discuss political issues in the peace process, but did not say where they would meet.

"The issue of closure was brought up and I said very clearly, as long as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad will continue their terror activities, the kind that they carried out in Jerusalem in kidnapping soldier Nachshon Waxman, the terrible atrocity, crime that they carried out in a suicidal mission on the bus in Tel Aviv, we will feel free to do whatever is needed to protect the lives of Israelis," Mr. Rabin said.

"We are ready to transfer health, wealth, tourism and taxation" on the West Bank, Mr. Rabin said after their encounter.

Israel has already transferred education on the West Bank to the self-rule Palestinian authority.

But the prime minister warned that the agreement on early empowerment would mean nothing without funds from international donors.

The agreement has been reached between us and the Palestinians. But it has to be signed and committed by the donors because they have to generate this early empowerment to become reality."

Mr. Arafat made no comment coming out of the villa in a posh, hilly district of Casablanca, marching directly into his Mercedes Benz limousine.

But Yasser Abed Rabbo, Mr. Arafat's minister of culture and information, said the closure policy should be lifted immediately and completely "because collective punishment is not a policy that will be helpful for creating an atmosphere of trust between the two nations."

He said he did not understand Israel's decision to seal off the Palestinians from their livelihoods. "We don't think there is a reason for that in spite of the incidents that have occurred," he said. "We can cooperate, but not to punish a whole people and to punish tens of thousands of workers who have nothing to do with such incidents."

Asked whether the PLO would strengthen its efforts to rein in Hamas, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, "I'm not talking about stopping or not stopping. We are doing our best on the security level in accordance with law and our obligations."

"We hope the other side will respect the obligations, the transfer of authority and the extension of Palestinian authority to the West Bank," he added.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat met shortly before Morocco's King Hassan was to open the largest ever gathering of businessmen and economic officials seeking to tap the huge potential of the Middle East and North Africa.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who took part in the Rabin-Arafat meeting, linked economic cooperation to the peace process saying: "Without economic cooperation... there is no validity to the peace for the man in street in Amman or in Gaza."

Meanwhile the fifth round of PLO-Israeli talks on Palestinian elections has been postponed until Nov. 6, a Palestinian official said in Cairo on Sunday.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.

Negotiators were to continue their talks in Cairo on Monday but the official told Reuters both sides decided to take more time to study the papers they exchanged last week and to rest.

Palestinian elections should have taken place in July as agreed under the PLO-Israel peace accord giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and of Jericho.

But after four rounds of talks in Cairo the PLO and Israel are still in disagreement over the electoral council's powers and Israeli demands for a joint committee to decide how to choose voters and candidates in Palestinian polls.

COLUMN

Mandela, cabinet take salary cut

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— President Nelson Mandela, his cabinet and certain other officials will take salary cuts of up to 20 per cent as part of a government austerity drive aimed at freeing more funds for South Africa's reconstruction, it was announced late Saturday. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki unveiled a plan to restructure government finances that includes the salary cuts, a shake-up of the civil service and possible privatisation of state assets. Mr. Mbeki, who is acting for Mr. Mandela while the president is on vacation, said the measures would free more funds for the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), the five-year plan aimed at overcoming the legacy of racial discrimination. Mr. Mbeki said the plan signalled a "bold and imaginative shift" in the government's approach to the role of the public sector in the RDP. The salaries of Mr. Mandela, Mr. Mbeki and the second Deputy President, F.W. de Klerk will drop by 20 per cent, cabinet ministers by 10 per cent, deputy ministers and provincial ministers by 7.5 per cent, Mr. Mbeki said. Certain other elected officials will also take salary cuts, but remuneration for ordinary members of parliament will be left unchanged, Mr. Mbeki said. The parliamentary caucus of Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress had rejected taking a salary cut, instead asking for more allowances.

Russia wants apology for Polish police misconduct

MOSCOW (AFP)

— Russia called on Poland's ambassador in Moscow to publicly apologise after several Russian nationals were roughed up and illegally detained by Polish police in Warsaw, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krylov called for a public apology as well as punishment for the Polish police officers involved and compensation for the victims, the news agency reported. The Russian press reported that several Russian nationals, travelling on a train from Moscow to Brussels, were held up by about 15 armed men while the train was stopped in Warsaw. The Russian passengers said they called for police but receiving no response, then set off the train's alarm, impeding its departure. Some 40 Polish police officers then reportedly proceeded to rough up the Russians and apprehended six of them, holding them illegally for three days, according to the Russian media. Mr. Krylov said that the incident happened due to "the incessant anti-Russian campaign of certain parts of the Polish media." ITAR-TASS reported. The Polish ambassador said the Russian authorities would be kept informed of an investigation opened into the incident. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is due to make an official visit to Poland on Nov. 3 and 4, notably to sign a \$2.4 billion investment agreement for the construction of a gas pipeline.

Coretta Scott King honoured with Gandhi Award

NEW YORK (AFP)

— Coretta Scott King, the widow of slain U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King, was honoured with the Gandhi Award for Universal Harmony. At a ceremony marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi late Friday, Mrs. King was honoured along with Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose, who was cited for his efforts to promote international peace and understanding. "It was on this Gandhian emphasis of love and nonviolence that I had discovered the method for social reform that I had been seeking," Mrs. King said. In attendance at the ceremony sponsored by the cultural organisation Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan were former Indian President R. Venkataraman and India's ambassador to the United States Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

Christopher sees concessions in Israel-Syria negotiations

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher insisted on Sunday that President Bill Clinton's Middle East tour last week had produced concessions in Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

He dismissed as "posturing" comments by Israeli officials that little was achieved.

Mr. Clinton said after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last Thursday that substantive progress had been made in American-mediated negotiations over the Golan Heights, though he declined to spell out details.

"But an Israeli government spokesman said later that Mr. Assad had said little new, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a newspaper interview he was not sure Syria wanted to make peace."

"It's not at all surprising that in their public posturing both parties would tend to minimise for public purposes the quality or substance of any concessions," Mr. Christopher told reporters.

"Both parties are conducting themselves in public in a way to maximise their negotiating positions," he said on board a plane taking him to the Middle East and North African Economic Conference in Casablanca.

"I'm not critical of that at all. I think it's just part of this very tough process."

Mr. Christopher said he would "not for a minute" change his assessment that substantive progress was made.

Even in background briefings, U.S. officials have refused to say what the progress consisted of. The main issues are the extent and timing of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, security arrangements to back it up, and the type of relations Israel and Syria would establish.

Mr. Christopher also said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had accepted he could not have good relations with Israel and the United States and also with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

The military wing of Hamas, which opposes the PLO policy of peace with Israel, has claimed responsibility for a series of recent attacks in Israel including the bombing of a bus which killed 22 people and the suicide bomber.

Mr. Christopher said Mr. Clinton told Mr. Arafat in Cairo last week that he could not maintain friendly ties with Hamas and with Israel and the United States.

"I don't remember his response to that except there seemed to be a general acceptance of that concept," the secretary of state said.

Mr. Christopher, due back in the region in November to continue peace negotiations,

said in an interview published in Israel Sunday that Israeli-Syrian talks had reached a crucial point.

"It is clear to me that we are at a crucial point in the negotiations, because a momentum has been created that is based on the fact that both sides are serious," the top American diplomat told the daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

"My personal experience shows that it is important to exploit such opportunities," he said.

A government-run newspaper Sunday accused Israel of "turning a deaf ear" to Syria's call for peace and of trying to undermine the "positive results" of the summit between President Assad and President Clinton.

"As had been expected, instead of trying to capitalise on the positive atmosphere engendered by the Damascus summit to augment chances for realising peace, the Israeli government has deliberately organised a comprehensive campaign of slander against Syria's stands," the Tishrin daily said in an editorial.

"The objective of this campaign is to skirt around the results of the Damascus summit, to pressure Washington to abandon the role of an impartial and honest partner and to stop demanding a comprehensive settlement on the bases of U.N. resolutions," it said.

On Aug. 22, a car bomb exploded near the offices of the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya, killing a child and injuring 13 other people. Iraq blamed the opposition and "agents of U.S. President Bill Clinton."

A previous car bombing in Baghdad wounded two people last October.

And in August 1993, a car bomb exploded outside a hospital in the capital, injuring five people.

This month's Baghdad bomb blasts came in the wake of heightened tension on the Iraq-Kuwait border as the result of a buildup of Iraqi forces near the emirate.

The troop deployment prompted the United States and its allies to rush troops, warships and aircraft to the Gulf.

Tension subsided when Iraq withdrew its forces from near the Kuwait border.

4 killed in Baghdad blast

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Four people died in a bomb blast at a Baghdad church shortly after mass on Sunday, including three policemen who were trying to defuse the device, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) and witnesses said.

It was the second bombing against a religious target in two weeks.

INA said the church caretaker found a suspicious package — a box of baby milk formula with the bomb concealed inside — in the Virgin Mary Chaldean Church in the Karrada district of the capital and alerted the police.

As one of the policemen tried to defuse the two-kilogramme device outside the church it blew up. Three policemen and the caretaker, or caretaker, were killed and three passers-by injured.

The church was badly damaged. Nearby buildings were also damaged, their windows

blown out by the blast which occurred shortly after morning mass, according to witnesses.

INA said the authorities had launched a criminal investigation.

On Oct. 19, one person was killed and five were seriously hurt when a blast rocked the Waqf ministry in charge of Muslim religious endowments in Iraq.

The bomb went off in a Muslim prayer room, injuring three men and three women. A ministry official later died in hospital.

Most of Iraq's one million Christians — out of a mainly Muslim population of 18 million people — belong to the Chaldean Catholic rite, dating back to the early years of Christianity.

Chaldean Patriarch Raphael Bidawid has pressed for the lifting of the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Israel arrests 150 activists of Hamas

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel recently arrested some 150 activists from the Hamas movement in response to attacks that left 24 civilians and two soldiers dead this month, Israel Radio said.

The radio said the sweep, that began immediately after the bombing of a Tel Aviv bus on Oct. 19, took place in the West Bank.

It said that at least half of those detained would be held without trial under emergency regulations and all were held in southern Kezior jail.

The army did not have immediate comment on the report.

At the same time, the daily Haaretz reported that Israel was gradually lifting a closure on the Gaza Strip imposed after Hamas took responsibility for the bombing.

Hamas, in a statement printed in Palestinian newspapers published in East Jerusalem, called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to ignore Israeli demands for a crackdown on Hamas in self-rule areas.

Hamas said it was aware of pressure from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin whom it said "pushes and incites the Palestinian authority to begin an internal Palestinian battle."

"We call on the Palestinian authority not to respond to Rabin's continued demands if it really wants to be an authority which cares about its peoples' interests," it said.

"We, in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas affirm our total rejection to be pushed towards inter-Palestinian fighting, regardless of the reasons."

Israel and Washington are pressing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in charge of the authority running Palestinian

self-rule in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, to crack down on Hamas after its guerrillas killed 26 people this month.

Hamas has vowed to wreck the year-old Israel-PLO interim peace deal which provides self-rule. Palestinians say Mr. Arafat is reluctant to come down hard on Hamas for fear of civil strife.

Mr. Arafat arrested some 200 Hamas activists earlier this month in hopes of finding the captors of an Israeli soldier held by the military wing of Hamas, Izzadine Al Qassam, sharpening the conflict with his most potent political rival.

However, on Saturday Hamas initiated a conciliation with the Palestinian authority, offering to renew dialogue to avoid a civil war.

On Sunday the Palestinian self-rule authority released eight militants of Hamas.

Of nearly 200 of its militants detained by Palestinian police, only six now remain behind bars, Hamas said.

The authorities in autonomous Gaza City also released six militants belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on Sunday.

They were the last of 65 DFLP members arrested in early October after an attack on an Israeli patrol.

More than a thousand Palestinian students from Hamas and Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction protested on Sunday against Israel for recognising Jordan's role at Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat has protested against the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

Algerian crisis worsens after collapse of contacts

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Fear of an escalation in violence was heightened Sunday after the government announced an impasse in contacts with Muslim fundamentalists, who urged its militants to fight on.

"The events risk multiplying," the independent daily La Tribune said Sunday, after President Liamine Zeroual said the night before that the military-backed government and the opposition "unfortunately remain far apart."

More than 10,000 people have died since the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was blocked from an imminent election victory in January 1992 amid public frustration with corruption and high unemployment.

Mr. Zeroual noted two letters sent recently to militants by Ali Belhadj, deputy leader of the FIS, calling on them to "keep up the pressure" on the government and "intensify" their operations.

"Now you know their real position," Mr. Zeroual said, quoted by the official APS news agency. He said Mr. Belhadj and FIS leader Abassi Madani continued to "encourage terrorism and extremism."

Mr. Zeroual made his comments during a meeting with six legal opposition parties. No progress was announced following the talks.

Mr. Zeroual said he would address the nation on Tuesday, marking the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the country's six-year war for independence from France. The government has often invoked that war as a rallying point, though most Algerians are too young to feel an emotional link to it.

FIS members living in exile kept up the war of words Sunday, saying "the number of victims and human rights

violations" have increased "under the reign of Zeroual and particularly over the past two months."

In the communique faxed to the Associated Press in Paris, the FIS challenged Mr. Zeroual to a live televised debate and urged Mr. Zeroual "and those who support him" to resign.

The party leadership in exile accused the government of trying to deceive people by saying that Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj had failed to fulfil their promises.

The government had banked on the two leaders calling for a truce in civil strife in the country.

"To clarify these events, we challenge 'President Zeroual' and his emissaries to organise a live televised duel before public opinion," it said.

The FIS said Mr. Zeroual faced the risk of "sharing with criminals the full responsibility for the destruction of the country and the massacres of its citizens."

The FIS statement said it had "accepted the principle of a settlement of the crisis by means of negotiations" and accused the government of "on the contrary, stepping up reprisal operations against the people in several regions of the country."

It criticised the authorities for their treatment of Mr. Belhadj and Mr. Madani, saying they were "seeking to deceive opinion by accusing (them) of not keeping their promises."

Referring to Algerian army chief of staff Mohammed Lamari, a hardline opponent of Islamic fundamentalists who was promoted Sunday to the newly created rank of lieutenant-general, the FIS accused "the criminal